THE TIMES

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TUESDAY APRIL 2 1996

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Labour supports stop-and-search powers as IRA blitz is feared to mark Easter Rising

Anti-terrorist law rushed in by Howard

BY RICHARD FORD AND JILL SHERMAN

EMERGENCY laws giving the police the right to stop and search terrorist suspects are to be rushed through Parliament today amid fears of an IRA Easter bomb campaign.

The sweeping new measures to allow the police to search people, buildings and freight cargo to flush out terrorists and their armoury of bombs, explosives and guns is expected to law by tomorrow.

Michael Howard unveiled the package of changes to the Prevention of Terrorism Act yesterday, saying they were urgently needed to counter the renewed IRA threat since the end of the ceasefire. Security sources had indicated to that they feared attacks over the weekend as the rebublican movement prepares to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Easter Rising in Dublin on Sunday.

Labour has promised not to obstruct the passage of the legislation, but some of the party's MPs joined the Liberal Democrats and civil liberties organisations in criticising the measures.

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, was briefed by ministers and senior police officers last week and he indicated last night that while Labour would not oppose the measures, he would seek safeguards. Nevertheless, up to 25 of his colleagues, led by the former Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, are expected to vote against the legislation.

Under the new law, an assistant chief constable or more senior officer will be able to react to intelligence reports suggesting terrorist activity by declaring a district a "specified area" for up to 28 days. Within that area, officers will be able to stop and search pedestrians even if they do not have a reasonable suspicion that they are involved in planning a terrorist act. Anyone who refuses to be searched could face a £5,000 fine or six months in jail.

The police will decide the size of the designated area, but they will have to justify that decision to the Home Secretary within 48 hours. The initial 28-day period can be extended for further intervals of the same length.

At the moment, police chiefs may stop pedestrians and search their baggage, but they are not allowed to look for devices that may be hidden in their clothing.

"It's not perfect but he never gets searched"

The new rules, which will bring the mainland into line with the law in Northern Ireland, will also allow police to search non-residential buildings if they have intelligence that terrorist materials are being stored in a particular area. For example, they could obtain a warrant to search a block of lock-up garages where at present they must identify each garage to be searched.

And in an attempt to curb the smuggling of bombs into Britain, officers are to have power to search unaccompanied goods at ports. At present, Customs officers can search freight to seize contraband but police may not search for anti-terrorist purposes.

The police are also to be given statutory power to cordon off areas where there is a terrorist threat or after an explosion, and powers to impose temporary parking restrictions where there is a threat to premises such as government buildings or royal residences.

Mr Howard's announcement provoked strong criticism from civil liberties organisations which feared that innocent people would be harassed. John Wadham, director of Liberty, said: "Six hundred people were arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act last year and not one of them was convicted of any offence. Without a Bill of Rights it is appallingly easy for the Government to rush through such ill thought-out emergency legislation which is far more likely to be used to harass the innocent than to catch the guilty."

Sources close to the Home Secretary made clear last night that the police have been pressing the Government to increase stop-and-search powers since the bombing in London's Docklands that marked the end of the IRA ceasefire on February 9. The police submitted proposals early last month, but the Home Secretary had then had to consider the best way to incorporate them into early legislation. He also wanted assurances of Labour support before going ahead.

Mr Shaw was given a briefing by police yesterday, when the need for changes before the Easter Rising anniversary was emphasised. His agreement to abstain was in line with Labour's decision last month not to vote against the renewal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

That decision — the first time in 13 years that the party had not voted against the legislation — prompted a rebellion by 25 Labour MPs, the biggest revolt since Tony Blair became leader two years ago.

Last night, the rebels were meeting to discuss their tactics and they are expected to vote against the Government today. Other Labour MPs will follow the party line, even though they suspect Mr Howard of deliberately rushing through the Bill to ensure maximum political damage to Mr Blair before the Staffordshire South-East by-election next Thursday. They believe that ministers will exploit any splits as evidence that the party is not wholly committed to preventing terrorism. Mr Howard, who will follow up today's Bill with a White Paper on tougher sentencing on Wednesday would meanwhile be able to portray the Government as being tough on crime.

Tory business managers have at the same time been let off the hook over the Family Law Bill, which was to have been debated in the Commons today, when a sizeable backbench rebellion was expected.

☐ Richard Tilt is to be the full-time Director-General of the Prison Service on a three-year contract worth £77,000 a year plus a performance-related bonus. It was announced yesterday. His predecessor, Derek Lewis, was paid £125,000 with a possible bonus of up to £35,000.

Mr Tilt, 51, who took over after Mr Lewis was dismissed in October, is the first former governor to head the service. He has served as a governor at Wellingborough, Gartree and Bedford jails as well as working at prison service headquarters and in the Home Office.

JAMES MORGAN

A car is stopped by police yesterday in the City of London. Under Mr Howard's new law refusing to be searched could mean six months in jail

Hogg puts case for aid to kill 4m cattle

BY JAMES LANDALE IN LUXEMBOURG AND MICHAEL HORNSBY

BRITAIN yesterday proposed the destruction of up to 4.6 million cattle over the next six years in an attempt to end the crisis over "mad cow" disease.

At an emergency meeting of European Union farm ministers in Luxembourg, Douglas Hogg, the Minister of Agriculture, also called on the EU to pay at least 80 per cent of the cost, which could amount to more than £500 million a year.

The move failed to persuade other ministers to agree to an early lifting of the EU ban on British beef exports worth more than £600 million a year. Mr Hogg pleaded for the ban to be raised, saying it was "in everybody's interest that the ban is lifted as soon as possible". But as the talks looked set to last long into the night, he admitted: "It will be some time before we can get a lifting of the ban ... But we are pressing for a very early lifting of the ban, which is very important to us and very important to Europe."

Officials at the meeting made it clear last night that other governments wanted measures to restore public confidence in the beef market to be in place before any raising of the ban could be

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Rift with Saudis threatens exports

A row between Britain and Saudi Arabia is threatening to jeopardise millions of pounds worth of British exports. As BBC's *Panorama* showed a Saudi public execution, the country's ambassador said that the continued presence in Britain of a Saudi dissident could lead to the cancellation of arms contracts.....Page 13

Teenagers beat man 'for laugh'

Three sixth-formers at one of Wales's leading schools were sent to a young offenders institution for their violent assault on a church caretaker. The three, who all planned to go to university, attacked the man "for a laugh" after taking a break from their A-level studies to get drunk celebrating VE-Day .....Page 3

Tory MP ready to topple Major over referendum

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A CLOSE ally of Michael Heseltine threatened yesterday to bring down the Government if John Major concedes a referendum on a single currency.

Julian Critchley gave the warning as the Prime Minister failed to persuade Kenneth Clarke to abandon his resistance to a euro plebiscite. Mr Major is expected to meet his Chancellor again today to try to break the deadlock before tomorrow's Cabinet meeting.

Mr Critchley, MP for Aldershot and Mr Heseltine's biographer, says in a letter to today's *Times* that after the expected Tory defeat in the South East Staffordshire by-election on April 11, the Government would have a majority of one and he would be it, given his poor health meant he voted on only the most vital matters.

He says in his letter: "I have written to my whip to tell him that under no circumstance would I vote for the Government were it to bow to pressure from the Euro-sceptic wing of the party and include a promise of a referendum on a single currency in the party's election manifesto."

He added last night that he would definitely oppose the Government if a Commons vote were called. If the Government lost, he would then think "hard and long" whether to support it in the vote of confidence that would follow. "By threatening the first, I would like to prevent the second from ever happening," said Mr Critchley.

The MP is for the most part confined to a wheelchair. If he were to oppose the Government in a confidence vote, Mr Major would need the support of minority parties for his Government to survive. It is feasible that either Labour or the Liberal Democrats could force a vote on a referendum. But the Aldershot MP denied

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Concorde takes trip into the wide blue yonder

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

IT WAS, perhaps, not surprising that Pepsi-Cola delayed the announcement that it was to paint Concorde blue to match the colour of its new can until after April 1.

Rumours that the company had spent £125,000 to paint an Air France Concorde blue and another £125,000 to paint it white again, had been circulating for some time. But no-one could belive it was serious — least of all British Airways engineers who know that Concordes can fly only if they are pure lily white.

They, too, had been asked if they would allow a Concorde to be painted blue. But they gently pointed out that the aircraft was white for good reason: its nose heats up to about 127C at its cruising height of 55,000 ft and any other paint would peel off. White also reflects the sun's rays and solar and cosmic radiation.

But Pepsi was absolutely serious and with £330 million to spend on revamping its image, only the best would do — whatever the technical objections. So Air France was eventually persuaded to fly one of its six Concordes to Gatwick and paint it blue, even if it could fly only at subsonic speeds in this alien colour.

It was also prepared to allow the model Cindy Crawfod and tennis star André Agassi to pretend to be air stewards for the day.

Concorde does not normally land at Gatwick, so suspicions that something was afoot were aroused when one of the Air France fleet flew in, noisily, in the dark of Sunday night.

Local plane spotters swore it was already painted blue — insiders say it acquired its new livery in Paris — but Air France refused to comment and Gatwick staff said they simply did not know. The jet was towed to a remote hanger, the doors firmly shut and the airliner remained hidden all day.

Even senior airport officials were kept in the dark and it was not until last night that they were convinced the whole enterprise was not an April Fool's joke.

But while details of today's launch of the blue cola can were being kept secret — they were not guarded closely enough. Richard Branson's marketing team got wind of the project and swiftly booked newspaper advertising space to declare: "If the can turns blue the cola's gone flat."

And while Pepsi is launching its new can today, Virgin will reveal details of a hurriedly compiled taste test indicating — surprise — that most people prefer its cola.

So far there has been silence from Coke.

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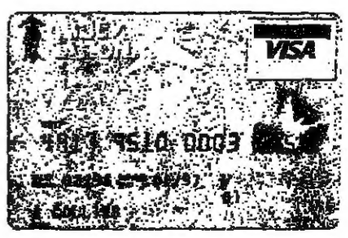

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Gentleman John kindly lifts the tone

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

In these crazy, *fin de siècle* days, moods change so abruptly in politics without reason given. Last Thursday John Major, 53, sounded tired and exasperated: Tony Blair, shrilly confident.

Yesterday the Prime Minister, 54, came to the House as warm and funny as we have seen him. Mr Blair sounded cautious, measured and low-key. It was as though a quarter tablet of Ecstasy had been slipped into Mr Major's tea, while Mr Blair had come off the cocaine. (Not, we hasten to add, that the Labour leader ever was on cocaine: Blair snorts a mysterious new drug called Control.)

The PM was in the chamber to report on the European Council Meeting in Turin. It was all very mellow. Mr Major had "underlined" this and would "pursue" that. He would "outline" this, "put forward" that and "seek" the other. He would be looking for changes to the Article on Britain's opt-out from the social chapter.

We chuckled at the idea of our premier "looking for" amendments to the Article, like a bunch of keys. Gosh, wherever did I put them? On the hall table? As to his chances of finding these mysterious changes, Major was silent. But it is comforting to know the search is on.

It was news about European help with the BSE crisis that had filled an empty Monday chamber. Here, too, Major's mood was new. He was doing his best (we were to understand) and was by no means pessimistic as to the outcome. He would keep us posted, but regretted that we might be on holiday by the time he had anything to report. Negotiation was to be conducted "speedily".

There is something crisply mannered about Major-speak: one gets fond of it. We proceed speedily rather than fast, using "for" where others say "because". Where a Great Western Railway notice would print the advice *Gentlemen Are Kindly Requested To Lift The Seat*, our PM might actually say this. When Major says "shown" one supresses the instinct to write "shewn".

Tony Blair was conciliatory. Tory accusations that his contribution to the mad cow crisis has been inflammatory could hardly have been levelled yesterday. He could not, however, quite resist the temptation to moralise. "Surely the lesson of the weekend," he told Major, had been that being nice to Europeans pays. Mr Blair would not say Gentlemen Are Kindly Requested To Lift The Seat, but "Surely the lesson of life is that we should leave this lavatory in the condition in which we expect to find it. To do less is to undermine those shared values in which each has a vital stake."

Next, Major told Paddy Ashdown that "being in a kindly mode" he would not quote Liberal Democrats. One imagines John cooing over the candlelight to Norma: "Being in a passionate mode, my love . . ."

Answering questions, Major was teasing. He was examining "some novel ways", he said in his Mystic Meg voice, "of ensuring that we find the right beast". He meant the right cow to slaughter. But he would not tell us what these novel ways were. Ducking stools? Is an equivalent of the medieval witchfinder to be hired?

Turning to fisheries, Major told John Redwood: "The fish would be so overfished that there would be no fishing industry left." What an overfished fish looks like was as mysterious as the novel ways of finding the beast.

Tony Banks (Lab, Newham NW) was rude about Baroness Thatcher and so deserved this Major put-down: "I'm prepared to consider what the Hon Gentleman says, but not for long, and after considering it I've rejected his proposal."

'Demeaning, inhumane' conditions

Holloway inmate had to attend court in nightie

By Richard Ford
Home Correspondent

A PRISONER at Holloway jail was forced to attend court in her night clothes because no other clothing was available, it was disclosed yesterday.

Underwear and shoes were not available at the jail, for instance, for inmates who were homeless or were foreigners whose clothes were seized when they were arrested.

The plight of inmates in the north London jail, the largest in the country for women, is disclosed in the annual report of the Board of Visitors published today. The report constitutes an devastating indictment of the jail's management and the regime.

The unnamed prisoner who went to court in a pink nylon nightdress was a foreign national being held on remand, but the severe shortage of clothing affected many more women. The Women's Royal Voluntary Service had been forced to stop supplying clothing because its storeroom was shut for a pharmacy to be built a year ago, and a parcels office at which clothing could be left was shut for long periods.

"No alternative plans were made and a degrading situation developed for the women. Even basic underwear and shoes were unavailable; one woman attended court in a nightie and négligé because she had nothing else to wear. There is still no clothing provision, and many women are dependent on the charity of staff and volunteers," the report says.

The report is published three months after Sir David Ramsbotham, the new Chief Inspector of Prisons, pulled his team out of the jail in protest at the conditions.

Ramsbotham: team withdrawn in protest

It says that substantial amounts of inmates' cash disappeared from registered mail being sent from within the jail, and money was also missing from inmates' cash arriving on the wings.

Prisoners were regularly locked in their cells for more than 20 hours a day, with a lock-up from 3.30pm-7.30am, and at weekends, prisoners only allowed outs of their cells for as little as one hour a day.

"It is demeaning, inhumane and damaging to the mental and physical health to keep women isolated and locked in their cells with little respite. Women are not prepared for return to the community and officers are demotivated when they feel they are being treated as turnkeys", the report states.

Six top-security inmates were held on remand at the jail during last year in single cells without viewing hatches. The report says that these women were routinely locked in their cells for three or four days over the weekends with only a few minutes outside.

One woman was held in these conditions for six months, which meant that, over the three to four days, it would be impossible for her to have a shower or bath or wash her hair. A young woman, later bailed, became a suicide risk.

In October, four prisoners were found with lice in their hair, but no officers on the wings had shampoo with which to treat the infestation and neither did the jail shop. Within 24 hours, lice had infested the bed linen in a a dormitory and five days later, 19 prisoners had lice in their hair.

Rachel Palmer, the outgoing chairman of the Board of Visitors, said last night: "Things at the jail were pretty horrifying and pretty worrying. The failure of the regime led to inmates being locked up, idle and isolated. This was damaging to the ethos of the prison and the lives on inmates. Holloway failed to meet its obligations to care for women, and prepare them for life in the community and as a result inmates were degraded."

Last December, Janet King, the governor, was transferred to Prison Service headquarters and replaced by Mike Sheldrick. According to sources at the jail, Mr Sheldrick has improved conditions and frequently visits the wings, talking with inmates.

IAN WALDIE

Sir Bobby, left, and Jack Charlton yesterday at the funeral of their mother

Charlton brothers bury the first lady of football

By A Staff Reporter

SIR BOBBY CHARLTON and his brother Jack yesterday carried the coffin of their mother Cissie, dubbed the First Lady of Football, at her funeral in their home town of Ashington in Northumberland.

The 1966 England World Cup-winning players and their brothers Gordon and Tom helped to act as pallbearers at St John's Church, where more than 250 people packed the church and as many again assembled outside to listen to the service relayed by loudspeakers. Many more stood to pay their last respects as the cortege wound through the former mining town.

Sir Bobby's wife, Norma, was also present in the large family gathering in spite of media reports about a cool relationship between her and her mother-in-law.

A wreath of chrysanthemums shaped into a football was mounted on top of the hearse as the coffin was borne from the church to the strains of the Wembley hymn *Abide With Me*.

During the service, tribute was paid to Mrs Charlton by Vince GLedhill, a local journalist and author of her biography, who said she was often called the First Lady of Football "and quite rightly so — the game was in her blood and her links with it were legendary".

Cissie Charlton: started coaching in her seventies

Her grandfather George Milburn, a 19th century fullback, was known as the "Warhorse" because of his fierce play. Her cousin Jackie Milburn was the legendary Newcastle United and England striker of the 1940s and 1950s.

Mrs Charlton had a "deep understanding of the game and a sharp eye for a good player", Mr Gledhill said. She put that knowledge to use when, in her 70s, she began coaching seven and eight-year-olds at the local Coulson Park First School. The football-shaped wreath was from the staff, pupils and governors of the school.

She had a strong character that was vital during several setbacks such as the discovery that she had breast cancer in 1957, and then, as she recovered from surgery the following year, the shock of the Munich air disaster in which Bobby was among Manchester United's injured survivors.

Mr Gledhill said one major factor that had helped her to get over the trauma of losing a breast through surgery was the laconic humour of son Jack who started calling her Leftie. Her husband Bob, who died in 1982, was a former boxer. She wore the ring he bought her with his £1 winnings from a fight-booth bout in 1934until she died.

Before the cortege left for Cowpen Crematorium, Sir Bobby, who now owns a travel agency, and Jack, recently retired as the Irish Republic team manager, chatted to and hugged relatives and friends outside the church.

British cattle cull

Continued from page 1

considered. Philippe Vasseur, the French Farm Minister, said: "We will only lift the embargo when we have total agreement that we have no risk."

Mr Hogg told the farm ministers that Britain was prepared to destroy all cattle more than 30 months old. "This is a significant measure which I hope will restore public confidence in the beef market," he said.

This would mean keeping out of the food chain the 15,000 elderly cattle, mainly dairy cows, which are slaughtered every week and turned into meat pies, sausages and other processed meat products. Their carcasses would be destroyed.

There was doubt whether Britain, which has only ten incineration plants, has the capacity to burn so many cattle. Ben Gill, deputy chairman of the National Farmers' Union, said much of the meat would have to be refrigerated for several months until new incineration plants were built.

Although Britain would be likely to pick up most of the cost of the new plants, a Commission spokesman said "co-financing" was not excluded.

Although few farm ministers reacted directly to Mr Hogg's proposal, it was clear that most of them did not think the move went far enough. The Dutch delegation said the new move was "not sufficient", and European Commission officials said the ministers all demanded "further radical measures" to restore public confidence.

The British proposal was broadly in line with the rescue plan first recommended last week by the NFU. Mr Gill said the Hogg proposals would be acceptable to British farmers.

Downing Street said last night that Britain would not be rushed into a decision on slaughtering cattle without European action to lift the British beef ban.

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Euro vote

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that he planned to resign the Conservative whip. "No way am I a defector. I am a pro-European, Macmillanite, One Nation Conservative ... I regret the gap that seems to be opening up between the Government and the parliamentary party."

Growing numbers of Tory MPs were predicting yesterday that the Prime Minister would either postpone a decision until after Easter or concede defeat in his efforts to unite ministers behind a referendum pledge. Euro-sceptic ministers hit back by warning of renewed turmoil unless Mr Major faced down Mr Clarke and his Deputy Prime Minister. One said 90 per cent of the parliamentary party wanted a referendum.

In the Commons, Mr Major appeared to be softening his enthusiasm for a referendum, expressed only three weeks ago. Reporting to MPs on the Turin inter-governmental conference, he said there "may possibly be a case" for one.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Families want police killer to stay in jail

The families of the three policemen shot dead in west London by Harry Roberts 30 years ago have petitioned Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, to block any release when he completes his recommended minimum sentence later this year (Lin Jenkins writes). Mr Howard has the power to overturn the decision of the Parole Board should it recommend that Roberts, 59, be freed.

The Inner London Probation Service wrote to the Metropolitan Police Federation and relatives of the three victims, Sergeant Christopher Head, 30, DC David Wombwell, 25, and PC Geoffrey Fox, 41, requesting their views on the possible release of Roberts, who has said he would like to live in London.

Paisley's boycott threat

The Rev Ian Paisley, the leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, threatened to boycott the start of all-party talks on June 10 if the Government refused to toughen its stance on disarming the IRA. The MP for North Antrim, who held talks in Belfast yesterday with Michael Ancram, the Northern Ireland Minister, said that Sinn Fein and the IRA should be "nailed to the fence" on the weapons issue.

Male 'Pill' breakthrough

A two-year trial of a male contraceptive in 15 centres around the world has shown it to be almost 99 per cent effective, scientists at Manchester University claimed yesterday. The drawback is that it requires weekly injections into the buttocks but trials are under way on the use of longer-term injections combined with pills or skin patches. The injections are of the male sex hormone testosterone.

Girl, 2, falls to her death

A two-year-old girl died after falling nearly 100ft from a cliff into the River Jed at Jedburgh in the Scottish Borders. Louise Mitchell, who is believed to have climbed through a hole in a fence at her home, was treated at the scene but died later in hospital in Edinburgh. In a separate accident in the Borders Robert Guthrie, 5, was killed when he was hit by a tractor near his home in Kelso.

Minister for South West

The Government has appointed a minister to co-ordinate issues affecting the South West. David Curry, Minister for Local Government, Housing and Urban Regeneration, will concentrate particularly on the interests of Devon and Cornwall, the Prime Minister announced in a Commons written reply. "This is the largest English region, and it has distinct identities and needs," John Major said.

Keays libel bid fails

Sara Keays and her businessman brother, Tom Keays, failed in the Court of Appeal to resurrect an abortive libel action over an article in *Business Age* magazine which they claimed implied they were linked to an international arms trade scandal because of her affair with the former Trade and Industry Secretary, Lord Parkinson. Three judges rejected their challenge to a High Court judge's ruling.

Road signs of the times

Signs from the 141 councils that officially disappeared from the map yesterday have already become collectors' items, with souvenir hunters digging them up from roadsides at dead of night. But souvenir hunters have had slim pickings in Cleveland because the name was never popular locally and most signs continued to read "Teesside" even after Cleveland was created in 1974.

Sisters return home

Two sisters allegedly forced into arranged marriages in Pakistan by their father returned home to Glasgow yesterday. Nazia Haq, 13, who had to marry a 40-year-old cousin, said: "It was a dreadful experience." Her sister Rifat, 20, said that although not happy initially she now wanted to bring her husband to Britain. A Glasgow councillor travelled to Pakistan to help the family return to Scotland.

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There cannot be a separate law for those with intelligence, judge tells youths

High school trio locked up for vicious attack on church caretaker

By Carol Midgley

THREE sixth-formers at one of Wales's leading schools were sent to a young offenders institution yesterday for their violent assault on a church caretaker. Judge John Curran told the youths, all 19: "There cannot be a separate law for those with intelligence that is different from others."

Judge John Curran said the three, pupils at Cardiff High School had "exulted in a rampage of violence" and brought shame on their affluent and highly respected fathers, a doctor, a retired bank manager and a business consultant.

Their parents in the public gallery burst into tears as the trio were led to the cells. Andrew Groom, David Vodden and David Willey, who all planned to go to university, attacked Eric Cobourne "for a laugh" after taking a break from their A level studies to get drunk celebrating VE Day. They drank beer and cider in a pub near their homes in the middle-class suburb of Cyncoed, Cardiff.

David Aubrey, for the prosecution, said that as they walked home they were "drunk, rowdy, destructive and violent" and "rampaged around the streets of this normally quiet suburb, behaving like three drunken hooligans".

They wrecked a garden wall and gate and vandalised a Mercedes car. "The three then came across Mr Cobourne, who was sitting on a bench outside his church and minding his own business," said Mr Aubrey. They hurled insults at him before Groom, a doctor's son, threw a bottle at Mr Cobourne's head, causing a wound that needed several stitches. He then turned to his friends and said: "My aim is usually that good."

Eric Cobourne: died two weeks after attack

Ian Birtle and the head injuries he suffered

Mr Cobourne was then kicked in the head by Vodden. Mr Aubrey said: "This man had his head down, holding his cut, when Vodden carried out what can only be described as a football volley to his head.

"Vodden, a keen rugby player, then boasted 'Did you see that? His nose just exploded.' When police asked why they had picked on Mr Cobourne, Vodden replied: 'He was obviously not a Cyncoed person, he was different'." Groom, a doctor's son who was said to be of extreme academic ability, told police he had attacked Mr Cobourne "for a sort of a laugh". Ian Birtle, 33, who lived nearby, witnessed the incident and tried to intervene to help Mr Cobourne but he was chased down the road and ended up on his knees being kicked and punched by the youths.

Mr Aubrey said: "Groom told him, 'Say you're sorry'. He managed to escape and get to his home where he collapsed across the doorstep covered in blood and slipping in and out of consciousness."

Two weeks after the assault Mr Cobourne, who suffered from heart disease and peritonitis, died but his death was attributed to natural causes and the defendants were not charged with manslaughter. They admitted violent disorder and causing actual bodily harm. They denied attempting to cause grievous bodily harm, but were convicted by the jury.

Keith Thomas, for Groom, who lives with his parents in a large detached house, said: "This case is a tragedy for all who have been touched by it. Andrew had a deep sense of shame and went to visit the families of the injured men to apologise. He is an academically clever young man with a great future. He is capable of a great contribution to the community.

"A sentence of custody will have more serious effect on him than most defendants who appear before the court. He will have great difficulties in continuing his education.

Vodden lives in a six-bedroom house with his parents. His father is a retired bank manager. Colin Davies, for Vodden, said: "He comes from a respected, respectable and affluent family. He has an exemplary character and you would not expect a person of his background to commit these offences. The effects on him have caused chaos in his life."

Daniel Williams, for Willey, said: "He is honest, sensitive, polite, caring and shy. He comes from a respectable family and the last 11 months have been hard to bear. He enrolled upon an Alcoholics Anonymous course at the church where the first assault took place. One family friend who knows him well tells us he finds his involvement in the offences is beyong comprehension."

Willey lives 200 yards from the church. His father Martin, a former BT executive and now a business stress consultant, was not available for comment.

Groom and Vodden were also found guilty of wounding with intent for the attack on Mr Cobourne and were sentenced to two years in a young offenders' institution. Willey, who had been accepted to study town planning at Durham University, was given 18 months. Judge Curran said: "This has had a devastating effect not only on your victims but also on your families. Mr Cobourne was a slight man of only 5ft 6in and would not have been a match for even one of you."

There was anger in Cardiff, however, that the youths may have been given lighter sentences because their parents were pillars of the community. Rhodri Morgan, Labour MP for Cardiff West, said: "A lot of people will feel that these boys got off very lightly because of where they live and who their parents are.

"They live on the right side of the tracks and whereas others from the wrong side may have been inside prison for a long time by now on remand, people feel that if they were from one of Cardiff's large council estates their feet would not have touched the ground."

As they were led to the cells the defendants' parents in the public gallery burst into tears. One mother said: "What are we going to do? This is awful" Groom's mother said: "There are two sides to every story. I just don't want to talk about it."

A police spokesman said afterwards: "These boys were well brought up but they disregarded all their upbringing that night to carry out these disgraceful attacks. What made it worse was that one of the victims was a sick man, totally unable to defend himself. The boys now find their lives ruined because they have seriously jeopardised their futures."

Mr Birtle, 33, said: "I was trying to help a man in trouble when they attacked me. Then they launched into me threatening me with bottles. I realised I was badly outnumbered and tried to get away but they caught me just beside the wall of my parents' house. They lashed into me with their feet as I lay on the ground and stamped on me so hard that I had the imprint of their shoes on my face and arm. They wore T-shirts and jeans and acted like thugs. I was amazed when I found out that they came from good families."

Mrs Margaret Ashford, a close friend of Mr Cobourne, said: "Eric was a lovely, lovely man whose wife had died of cancer. He was so non-violent. He should have been the last person in the World to be subjected to an attack like this."

Cardiff High School was second in the league table for Wales for A Level results last year.

Andrew Groom, left, who launched a savage attack on a church caretaker with David Vodden and David Willey after a drinking session

Police find boy dead in ditch

By Russell Jenkins

THE body of a 21-month-old boy who disappeared from a travellers' caravan site was found yesterday trapped beneath rubbish at the bottom of a ditch filled with filthy water.

Police divers searching for John Bristow made the discovery almost a day after he vanished from the site near Lydd, Kent, where he lived with his parents, Tracey Benney, 23, and Paul Bristow, 24, and his grandparents.

Residents at the caravan park hurled abuse at police as they took the body away for a post-mortem examination, angry that the search was halted temporarily overnight.

Detective Chief Inspector Andy Feltham said: "My sympathy is with the family. What I would want to say to them is that we have conducted an extremely thorough search. Officers were engaged until three in the morning. The wind was howling, it was freezing cold and it was absolutely pitch black."

Backroom mummy cut open after 3,000 years

By Kate Alderson

AN ANCIENT Egyptian mummy that had been languishing in an elderly couple's backroom has been dissected to reveal a treasure trove of lucky charms and a stone figure within its stomach.

The discovery of the statuette, known as an ushabti, in the abdomen is most unusual, as is the cache of 21 wooden amulets. Only four such detailed autopsies of a mummy have been conducted in Britain in the past 90 years.

The mummy, a young male of high social standing who lived in about 1,000 BC, was donated to Manchester University for scientific research by an elderly Glaswegian couple. The couple, who have not been named, are collectors of curios and had kept the mummy, which has no head, in a storeroom cupboard for years.

Dr Edmund Tapp, a Home Office pathologist for Lancashire and Cumbria, was called in to dissect the mummy by Dr Rosalie David, keeper of egyptology at the Manchester Museum. The autopsy was conducted at the Royal Preston Hospital in front of an audience of scientists, students, doctors and laboratory staff.

Dr Tapp, using the techniques of modern pathology, made a small incision in the abdomen before removing layer upon layer of calcified tissue. Using X-rays as a guide he searched deeper into the abdomen for the small figures that had been shown up.

He discovered a 6in-high ushabti. It would normally be found inside the tomb but is thought never to have been found within a body. The ushabti acted as a servant in the afterlife.

There were also 21 amulets or lucky charms representing the four sons of the sun god Horus in the shape of a monkey, a human head, a jackal and a hawk.

Dr Tapp, who has researched the diseases of the Ancient Egyptians, said: "It was like conducting an archaeological dig inside a body. The artefacts we have found are rare and unusual in themselves but to conduct an autopsy of this kind is also a rare treat. We can't say whether the ushabti was placed accidentally or intentionally in the stomach. It's simply very unusual." He hopes further testing will establish the cause of death.

Very few mummies remain in the hands of private collectors who would allow them to be examined in such detail. Many were brought back to Britain in the 19th century but Egypt banned their export at the beginning of this century. In Victorian times mummies would be unwrapped for favoured guests at soirées.

John Taylor, assistant keeper of Egyptian antiquities at the British Museum, said: "It is extremely unusual to find the ushabti figure in the abdomen and strange that it is made from stone. The only comparable find is that of a figure, believed to be an ushabti, found in the outer bandages of a mummy at the British Musuem in the 1960s. However, this is quite different because it was found inside the stomach."

Quiz-show comics have the answer

By Andrew Pierce

STAND-UP comedians are reaping rich rewards by moving into the world of the television celebrity quiz show. Funnymen as diverse as Bob Monkhouse and Frank Skinner, presenter of *Fantasy Football*, can command up to £15,000 for 30 minutes.

The renaissance of the stand-up comedian, which produced performers such as Paul Merton, Jo Brand, Vic Reeves, Helen Lederer and Lee Hurst, has also spawned a plethora of celebrity shows — at a price.

Traditional favourites such as *Mastermind* and *Ask the Family* have been eclipsed by programmes such as *Have I Got News For You*, *They Think It's All Over*, *Shooting Stars*, *Fantasy Football* and *That's Showbusiness*.

Paul Merton, Michael Barrymore, Frank Skinner and Angus Deayton can command from £10,000 to £15,000. Jo Brand, Vic Reeves, Shane Ritchie, Jonathan Ross and Nick Hancock, presenter of the irreverent sports quiz *They Think It's All Over*, are in the £5,000 to £10,000 bracket.

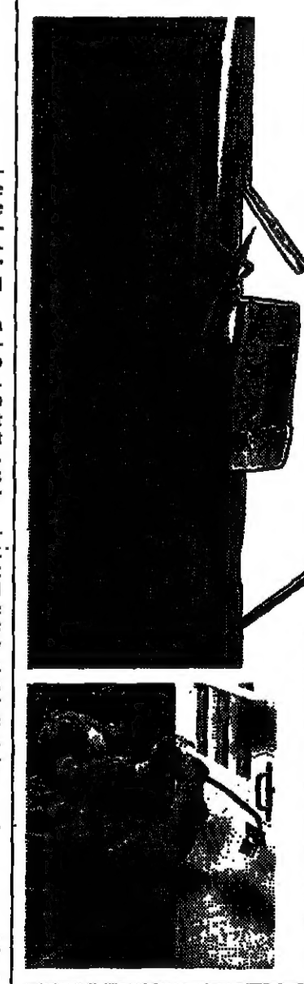
Vic Reeves, left, Jo Brand and Frank Skinner are products of the renaissance in stand-up comedy

Leading writers have criticised the trend, which they say is denying producers whose budgets have been cut the resources for proper drama. Denise O'Donoghue, managing director of Hat Trick Productions, producers of *Drop the Dead Donkey* and *Father Ted*, said: "These people can command these figures because someone somewhere thinks they must be worth it. I do not know many producers who get £1,000 an episode. Broadly speaking today shows are often built round the celebrity. We always insist that the script comes first. The star comes afterwards."

Harry Thompson, who was series producer of *Have I Got News For You* and produces *They Think It's All Over*, attacked the trend towards the celebrity cult. "Stand-up comics dominate the quiz shows. They are seen as the ones who can deliver the ratings. They are often wooed on to programmes by shows of generosity which television companies cannot afford when other producers are cutting their budgets.

"The next thing, they get their own script for a sitcom or series of sketches. Writers are called in afterwards. It's the wrong way round. You wouldn't hire someone to fix your plumbing, or to decorate your house, just because they were so famous. So why hire someone famous to go on a show or to write a script unless you know that they can deliver?"

Mr Thompson added: "There is an absolute sense of terror that celebrities, who have proved they can grab an audience, will go elsewhere."



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Widely publicised claims of clinical result within 24 hours are disregarded by other scientists

Relatives of CJD victims seek action on 'live test'

By Paul Wilkinson

THE families of four victims of the human form of "mad cow" disease urged the Government yesterday to examine a possible test for BSE and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in live cattle and humans.

The test is said to have been devised by Dr Harash Narang, 53, who worked as a clinical virologist at the public health service laboratory in Newcastle upon Tyne until 1994. His claims have been widely publicised by the media but the scientific community has disregarded them because he has failed to publish them in a scientific journal. The Ministry of Agriculture said that it had contacted Dr Narang for details of the test. "We certainly aren't going to turn down any test that might identify BSE," a spokesman said.

Don Curry, the chairman of the Meat and Livestock Commission, has said that he is willing to meet Dr Narang to discuss the test. "The difficulty is that Dr Narang has never published the test, and nobody else has been able to repeat it," a spokesman for the commission said yesterday.

Dr Narang comes originally from Delhi and completed his education at university in England. In 1984 he spent a year on leave from his job working with a top American team at the US National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, on BSE and CJD-type diseases. When he applied to continue his studies with the team his superiors in Newcastle refused to extend his leave and he was recalled.

He lost his £40,000-a-year post as a microbiologist with the public health laboratory service in November 1994. He took his dismissal to an industrial tribunal, claiming he had been sacked because the results of his research would have a "wide-ranging impact" but the tribunal ruled in favour of his former employers who insisted Dr Narang's

Narang: details of his test are unpublished

post had been made redundant because of a 2 per cent cut in funding from the Department of Health.

In recent years he has become involved with the families of CJD victims. Yesterday he told the first meeting of the CJD Campaign Group, which he has set up with the families of Peter Hall, Morris Callaghan, Stephen Churchill and Fonnie Van Es: "Since the admission of a link between CJD and BSE the number of so-called experts has mushroomed, but I have a proven test that the Government will not acknowledge."

His test for BSE uses electron microscopy, which he says can detect cattle meat infected with BSE in 24 hours, as opposed to traditional methods which take up to six weeks. "If any slaughtered cattle test positive for BSE these carcasses can be destroyed and never enter the human food chain," he said.

"This test avoids the need for any mass slaughter of cattle and will restore confidence in British beef."

He believes that ministry officials have deliberately obstructed his work because they fear a test would reveal how many cattle reaching slaughterhouses were infected with BSE. During his career at the public health laboratory service he was twice disciplined for breaches of conduct while carrying out his research. In 1991 he was given a written warning for carrying out research into genetic manipulation without legal consent. A year later he was formally suspended after calling on the relatives of people who had been affected by CJD.

His work is sponsored by Ken Bell, 69, whose family has been in butchery for three generations on Tyneside. He said: "The research being undertaken by Harash is crucially important. He is just one man on his own fighting the large institutions, but he is not giving up." Dr Narang believes he is only 18 months away from proving a definite link between the two diseases.

TOM FINNIE

Ilya Andrews, left, Clare Callaghan and Gerard Callaghan at the CJD Campaign Group meeting yesterday

☐ Vegetarians are reporting a surge of interest in their way of life. The Vegetarian Society said yesterday it had received 1,084 calls last week, about double the normal number. Haldane Foods, a leading manufacturer of vegetarian products, reported booming sales of its soya-based meat substitutes. By contrast, Sainsbury yesterday reported a continuing run on beef in response to its decision to halve prices last Friday. "We sold out on Saturday, the first time this has happened in our 125-year history", a spokesman said. "Most branches sold out again on Sunday."

Libby Purves, page 18

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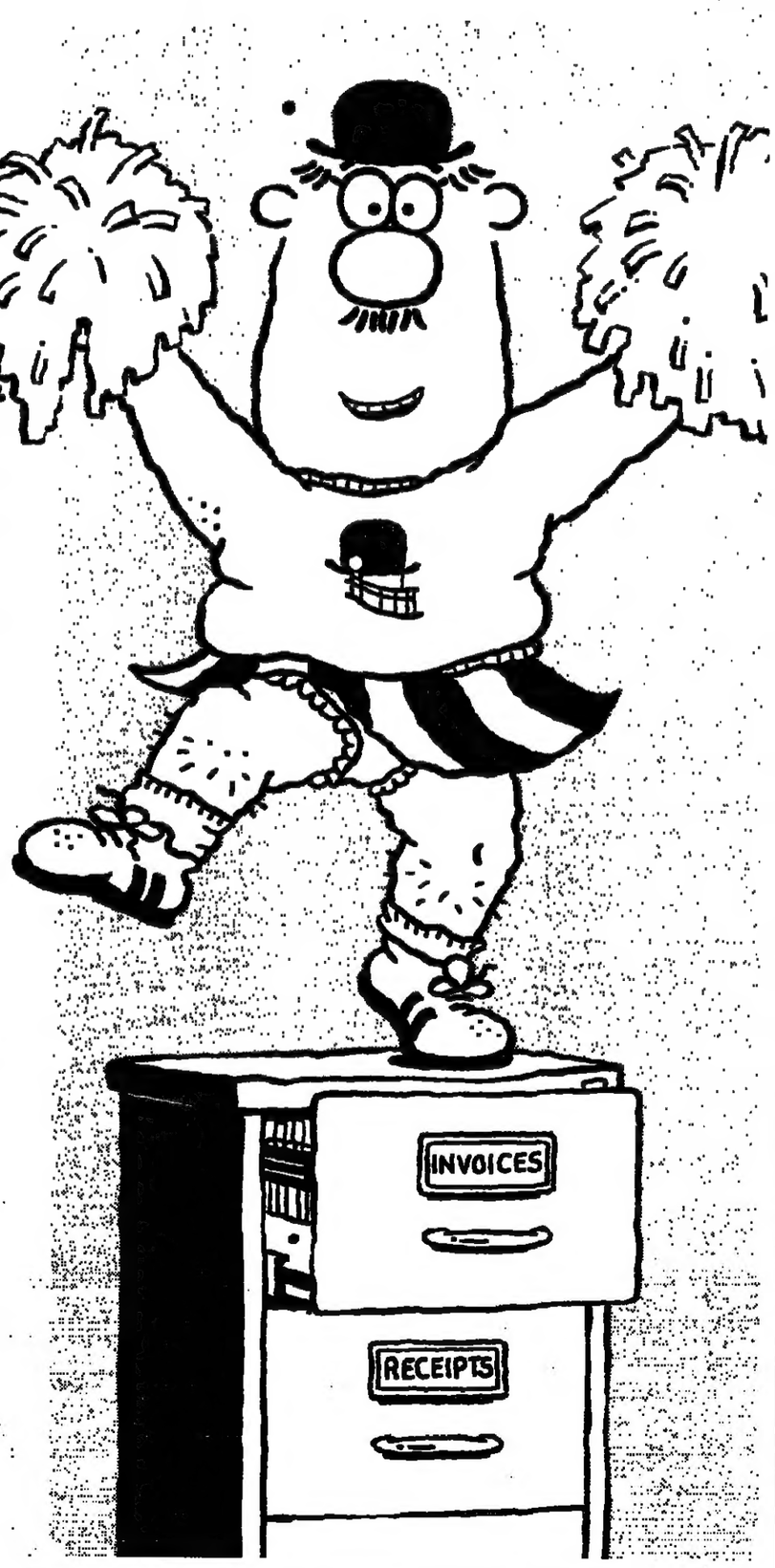

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Heads accused of cover-up over classroom thugs

By John O'Leary and David Charter

TEACHERS are being put in danger because police and school authorities refuse to act against increasing classroom violence, union leaders said yesterday. They presented a dossier of 50 assaults and demanded measures to protect their members.

Peter Smith, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, told the opening of its conference in Torquay that schools would become fortresses unless the problem was taken seriously.

Mr Smith said that heads, governors and education authorities covered up assaults on staff to protect a school's reputation. Police were reluctant to press charges because, in their terms, incidents appeared trivial.

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, has launched an £18 million package of measures to improve school discipline. She is considering whether to reverse the limits on exclusions introduced two years ago.

But Mr Smith said that stronger measures were needed. He called for automatic action when a teacher is assaulted and more government money to develop withdrawal units — popularly known as sin bins — to cater for disruptive pupils.

"God help us if we go down the road of American inner-city schools," he said. "There is a real problem, but if something serious is done now rather than simply paying lip-service, we need never take that route. Otherwise, those of us who say that schools can never be fortresses will have to change our tune."

Labour will seek to gain the conference's approval today when David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, will promise term-long exclusions and more expertise and equipment for the withdrawal units. He will also propose that more classroom teachers should spend time in the units to ensure pupils learn the national curriculum and maintain a link with the rest of the school.

In a poll of branches covering two thirds of education authorities in England and Wales, the union found nearly 300 cases of serious assault over the past year. More than nine out of ten teachers said they were facing more indiscipline in class and one in three said the position was much worse than 15 years ago. Most blamed pupils' parents.

The union has issued a model policy for schools, which says that assaults should normally be reported to the police and the teacher relieved of duties. Teachers should be offered counselling and be consulted on further action against their attacker.

Mr Smith said: "The police force is under considerable pressure and things which may be shocking, horrifying and career-destroying seem pretty small beer as far as the police are concerned. For reasons I well understand, heads, the police and governors are not taking as seriously as they clearly should an issue which is a very important community problem."

Boy of 9 'ended teacher's career'

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

A TEACHER spoke yesterday of the struggle with a violent nine-year-old that ended her career.

Galina O'Connor, 58, has not been able to work since the incident three years ago at Woodcroft School, in Barnet, north London. She said the boy concerned had been allowed to set his own conditions to return to her class after a previous assault.

At a press conference at the annual conference of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, Mrs O'Connor said she had been awarded £2,500 compensation but no action had been taken against the boy. He had attacked three children and prevented anyone from leaving the classroom for 15 minutes before Mrs O'Connor had lifted him out of the way and injured her back.

Mrs O'Connor, who taught for 11 years, said: "I felt something snap in my back. I can practically not walk more than 100 yards or sleep well because the pain returns."

Barnet education authority did not accept that Mrs O'Connor had been assaulted or that the boy was to blame for her retirement on health grounds.

In the final assault in 1993 the boy cut a girl's shin, crushed another between two tables and held a third girl by the leg and began to twist it. Mrs O'Connor said he had been removed from school subsequently by an uncle.

Mrs O'Connor was one of two ATL members at the conference in Torquay who described classroom assaults.

Sam Bechler, from a Wolverhampton comprehensive, was attacked by an 18-year-old relative of a boy he had disciplined. The youth aimed a punch and a flying kick at Mr Bechler, 59, wrote obscenities on the blackboard and shouted abuse. He was convicted of assault.

A third teacher, who had been awarded £88,000 after having to give up teaching, submitted anonymous testimony because he fears reprisals by his attacker, who was jailed after the assault.

The ATL's dossier included attacks and threats from parents, pupils and intruders.

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'There have been so many cases'

Benbecula crofters blame Chernobyl for wave of cancers

By Gillian Bowditch
Scotland Correspondent

PEOPLE on the remote Western Isle of Benbecula spoke yesterday of their fears that their seemingly unspoilt island was harbouring a deadly environmental agent caused by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster a decade ago.

Nineteen cases of cancer have been diagnosed by one general practice on the island, home to 1,800, in the past 18 months. Of these 16 have died. Dr Francis Tierney, the island's doctor who has voiced concern about the disturbing trend, says he would have expected only three to five cases a year. He said many of the cancers were of the lungs and digestive tract although there was also an alarming increase in breast cancer. "We are seeing cancers for which we do not know the cause and lung cancer in non-smokers."

Yesterday on Benbecula there was much talk of a Chernobyl connection. Robert MacGillivray and his wife Katie, who run the Harris Tweed store at Balivanish, said there had been a great deal of concern at church on Sunday. "No one was panicking but people are worried," Mrs MacGillivray said. "I am concerned for my grandchildren."

Other people told of two-headed lambs being born in the aftermath of Chernobyl and of how one of the lochs at Gramstald, once full of trout, was now mysteriously empty.

Dr Tierney said: "People in Benbecula are very concerned. Patients have noticed that many of their neighbours and relatives are getting cancer and they want to know why. You can't have one funeral a month without people noticing. The community is so small everyone knows what everyone else has got. People come up to me at gravesides and say 'What is happening doctor?' They are coming up with their own theories."

The majority of cancers are of the lung and bowel. The most severely affected are middle-aged men who have a crofting background and who have been on the island for more than ten years.

The link with Chernobyl is just one possible cause which Dr Tierney would like investigated. Another theory concerns radioactivity from Sellafield. A medical paper published by a North Uist GP, Dr John McLeod, showed higher levels of radioactivity in men on the island than elsewhere and a link with Sellafield was established.

There were also fears that the local tip has contaminated the water supply and worries about the Ministry of Defence missile testing range which provides a valuable source of income for Benbecula.

Dr Tierney says: "My hunch would be that it is connected with radioactivity of some sort. Whether that is Chernobyl or Sellafield I wouldn't like to speculate. People are very concerned about their environment."

Yesterday Benbecula was bathed in bright sunshine. The inhabitants take a pride in their windswept treeless island. There is no litter or grafitti and the doors of cars and houses are left unlocked.

For years Benbecula was merely a stepping stone between North and South Uist but the MoD base with its 500 employees has helped to bring prosperity to the island. There is one supermarket but many islanders are self sufficient. Sheep outnumber people, many of whom are crofters who have farmed the land for generations, growing vegetables and keeping chickens.

One such is Morag McIntosh, 60, who has lived on Benbecula for 38 years. She was diagnosed as suffering from cancer of the bowel last month. "It happened very quickly and has come as a big shock," she said. "I feel very weak but I am confident things will work out."

Mrs McIntosh lives in the hamlet of Creagorry. Four of her neighbours also have cancer. She said: "People are very worried. Over the past year there have been so many cases. People are asking why and should something not be done? I was very healthy. I don't smoke and I seldom drink. If it can happen to me it can happen to anyone."

Link with disaster 'unlikely'

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

RADIATION experts believe it unlikely that Chernobyl had anything to do with the cancers on Benbecula.

There is no evidence that after the Chernobyl disaster the levels of fall-out on Benbecula were high. An analysis by the National Radiological Protection Board concluded that the island fell into the second-lowest category for contamination, which depended on whether rain fell when the Chernobyl contamination passed overhead.

Any radiation effects would be more likely to be thyroid cancer or leukaemia, not stomach or lung cancer. The causes of stomach cancer are more likely to be dietary, while smoking is the main cause of lung cancer. Neither is a marker for radiation exposure.

Lamp may replace laser treatment

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Correspondent

A LAMP that kills cancer cells with an intense beam of light has been invented by a British scientist. The device, the size of a household toaster, has been used on 150 skin cancer sufferers and has cured four fifths of them. Within a few weeks of a 45-minute session with the lamp their symptoms had cleared.

The lamp is one twentieth of the cost of a laser and is being hailed as a big advance. Doctors are so pleased that they are planning tests on brain, breast, gullet, prostate, bowel and gynaecological cancers.

The lamp, which is painless to use, emits an arc of concentrated light that is cooled and then channelled through a series of lenses. A flexible guide directs the light to the cancerous skin, which will have been treated with a photosensitive drug. On internal organs the light source would be applied via an endoscope inserted into the digestive tract or, in the case of a brain tumour, via a hole in the skull. However, that is some years away.

The device, developed by Dr Colin Whitehurst, of the Cancer Research Campaign's Paterson Institute in Manchester, costs £4,500 compared with £100,000 for a laser. The wavelength of light it emits can be varied to suit different cancers, making it more versatile than a laser, which operates on one wavelength.

Professor Gordon McVie, the campaign's new director-general, who took up his post yesterday, said: "It is a truly remarkable invention which we believe will make a vital contribution to the way cancers are treated."

THE TIMES SCREENWRITING COMPETITION 1996

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Send your entry to: The Times Screenwriting Competition 1996, PO Box 510, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 8QS. Closing date May 9, 1996. Full terms and conditions appeared last week.

THE TIMES SCREEN WRITING COMPETITION
TOKEN 5

MICHAEL POWELL

Dr Roy Watling, of the Royal Botanical Garden, Edinburgh, examines *Oxyporus populinus* during the Mycological Society fungi-hunt

Fungi hunters join a mushrooming pursuit

By Nick Nuttall
Environment Correspondent

FUNGI experts went hunting red caps and toadstools in an English forest yesterday in the finest tradition of their Victorian forebears.

As part of centenary celebrations for their society, amateur and professional mycologists converged on Symond's Yat, Hereford and Worcester, to search for fungal delights on dead wood, trees and pushing up through the soil.

The spring foray was a re-creation of a Victorian tradition established by the local Woolhope Naturalists's Field Club under the renowned naturalist Dr H. G. Bull. The club's gourmet and scientific interest in fungi, normally celebrated over copious amounts of food and drink at the Green Dragon Inn in Hereford, led to the foundation of the British Mycological Society in 1896.

Mary English, a contemporary author, wrote: "All British mycologists who could get there did so, intent on the enjoyment of the heady mixture of days in the countryside in pursuit of rare species of toadstools and evenings of friendly social intercourse over good food and wine." Dr Jack Marriot, a vice-president of the society, said the forays were "not just an excuse for heavy drinking and eating". Botanists had realised the significance of fungi in crop diseases, he said.

Professor Tony Whalley, of Liverpool John Moores University, said: "We don't want to encourage too many people to eat them now. It might harm the environment."

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Chainsaws let a little light into barrier between neighbours

By Tim Jones

A RETIRED teacher smiled happily yesterday at the buzz of chainsaws trimming his neighbour's giant *Cupressus leylandii* hedge. As the sunlight flooded into Michael Jones's garden, another episode in one of Britain's longest and costliest unneighbourly disputes drew to a close.

But Mr Jones knows his joy will be shortlived. For 6ft behind the ten trees that mark his garden's boundary, and beyond the reach of the law, his neighbour Charles Stanton has planted another row of trees which Mr Jones is powerless to do anything about. The fast-growing conifers are already 15ft high.

As the first row was being chopped down from 20ft to a manageable 12ft, Mr Stanton, 84, a retired engineer, placed a cardboard coffin outside his front door at Selly Oak, Birmingham. A plaque taped to the lid beside a posy of blue and white crocuses read: "RIP my beautiful trees whose green mantle has so nobly softened my gaze against the ugly reality beyond."

Coffin mourns "trees that softened my gaze"

Mr Jones, 67, contemplating the second row, said: "They can reach 100ft and Mr Stanton has told me he will allow them to grow to an uncontrolled height. With Mr Stanton the hell is never over."

The seeds of the trouble were sown in 1971 when Mr Jones and his wife moved into the leafy suburb planned by George Cadbury. Mr Stanton, who had lived there since 1947, planted the trees and when they reached 15ft Mr Jones began to complain that his southwest-facing garden was being deprived of sunlight.

In 1979, the first of scores of solicitors' letters passed between the neighbours. Mr Stanton reduced the hedge to 22ft, but in 1989 Mr Jones lopped 5ft off, followed by a further 4ft the next year. He won a court ruling that a hedge, like a fence, could be repaired and maintained by either neighbour. But Mr Stanton obtained an injunction to stop him.

Last November, at Birmingham County Court, Mr Stanton lost his claim for £30,000 in damages against Mr Jones for lopping the trees. The Recorder, Harry Wolton, QC, also lifted the injunction which prevented Mr Jones from trimming the barrier.

ROLAND LEON

Michael Jones oversees the trimming of his neighbour's first line of trees yesterday. "With Mr Stanton the hell is never over," he said

Mr Jones said he had spent £50,000 in fighting the case and hoped to recover £44,000 from Mr Stanton, whose own costs are at least as much.

Apart from the legal costs, the dispute has resulted in bitter words and recriminations. Mr Stanton believes that Frieda, his first wife, died partly from the shock brought about when Mr Jones lopped a few feet off the trees.

Mr Jones said: "She died when complications set in after she had dropped a bottle of Ribena on her toes."

As he watched the tree surgeons at work yesterday, Mr Jones said: "I don't regard this as a victory. This has been a pathetic thing over what should have been a trivial issue.

"He thinks I'm an ogre. I could have sold up but that would have left the problem for someone else. It should have been settled rationally but it became a problem of personal animosity. Because of this ludicrous row my wife and I have had to forgo holidays and other luxuries. Although I did not take my neighbour to court this has cost my life-savings."

Mr Stanton twitched his curtains to check on callers yesterday but remained firmly indoors. His second wife, who declined to give her first name, would speak only briefly through the letter box. Ignoring the coffin, she said: "It is just an ordinary day for us. The bleakness went long ago. Now I am going to hang the washing out."

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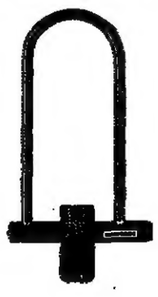

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C of E told to back divorce services

By Ruth Gledhill
Religion Correspondent

THE traditional "hatch, match and dispatch" roles of the Church of England could soon be joined by a fourth: "to unmatch". A leading clergyman has called for the Church to allow divorced people to mark the breakdown of their relationship with a special service.

Support for a ceremony to mark a divorce is growing. "Divorce ceremonies" have taken place in the Church of England and the United Reformed Church without official authorisation.

The "funeral for marriage" would involve the couple handing back wedding rings. In one case, the rings were sold and the money donated to Christian Aid.

At a weekend meeting of the Norwich diocesan synod, Canon Michael Woods, team rector of Great Yarmouth, called on the Church's bishops to agree an order of service for the divorce ceremony. Although defeated, the motion was backed by a surprisingly large proportion of the synod — about one third.

Canon Woods told the synod: "It may sound Monty Pythonesque having a service for the breakdown of marriage. Divorce entails feelings of pain, bereavement and guilt and this calls for help and support. The Church recognises birth, marriage and death, but for the break-up of marriage there is nothing."

Canon Woods, recently criticised for blessing gay "marriages", was supported by the Rev Richard Woodham, of Norwich, who disclosed he had officiated at divorce ceremonies.

Cambridge receives £1m for Islamic studies post

By Ruth Gledhill

CAMBRIDGE University has been awarded almost £1.2 million for a lecturer's post in Islamic studies.

The donation, from one of the largest charitable organisations in the Middle East, reflects an era in which British culture has become more diverse, a trend the university has sought to reflect by adding the study of other religions to its syllabus.

The university said that for centuries its study of theology had been primarily concerned with Christianity. A spokesman said the endowment would "help the university reflect the religious make-up of today's society".

The lectureship will be advertised in the *The Times Higher Education Supplement* next week, and will come with a salary of between £18,000 and £28,000 depending on the age and experience of the successful applicant.

Until now, the university has been forced to rely on lecturers from faculties such as oriental studies to teach Islam. These have been linguistic, historical or cultural experts on Islam, but for the first time the university will have a religious lecturer specialising in Islam.

The teaching of Islam will continue to figure as part of the normal Tripos in the faculties of divinity and oriental studies.

The endowment comes from the Zayed bin Sultan Nahayan Charitable and Humanitarian Foundation of Abu Dhabi, an organisation which also funded the Centre for Islamic Studies at the University of Wales in Lampeter.

Contacts with the foundation were provided by the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Runcie, who is chairman of the divinity faculty's development committee.

Other recent benefactions include a lectureship in Buddhist studies. Donations for posts in Judaism and Christianity in Africa and Asia are being sought. The divinity faculty is also seeking £3 million for a new building close to the library for lecturers and researchers.

Rosalind Paul, the faculty's administrative officer, said: "This is a wonderful coup for us, and everyone is very excited about it. The lectureship will be open to a male or female Muslim or non-Muslim."

The endowment coincides with a £33,000 donation from the film director Steven Spielberg to give the divinity school a visiting lecturer in modern Jewish thought.

Lottery to alter rule on good causes

By Dalya Alberge
Arts Correspondent

A CHANGE to the rules of how the National Lottery funds good causes, so that people and not just buildings can receive money, has been proposed.

Local communities will be able to apply for National Lottery funding for arts and sports schemes in their area under a change of rules being explored by the five distribution bodies, Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, said yesterday.

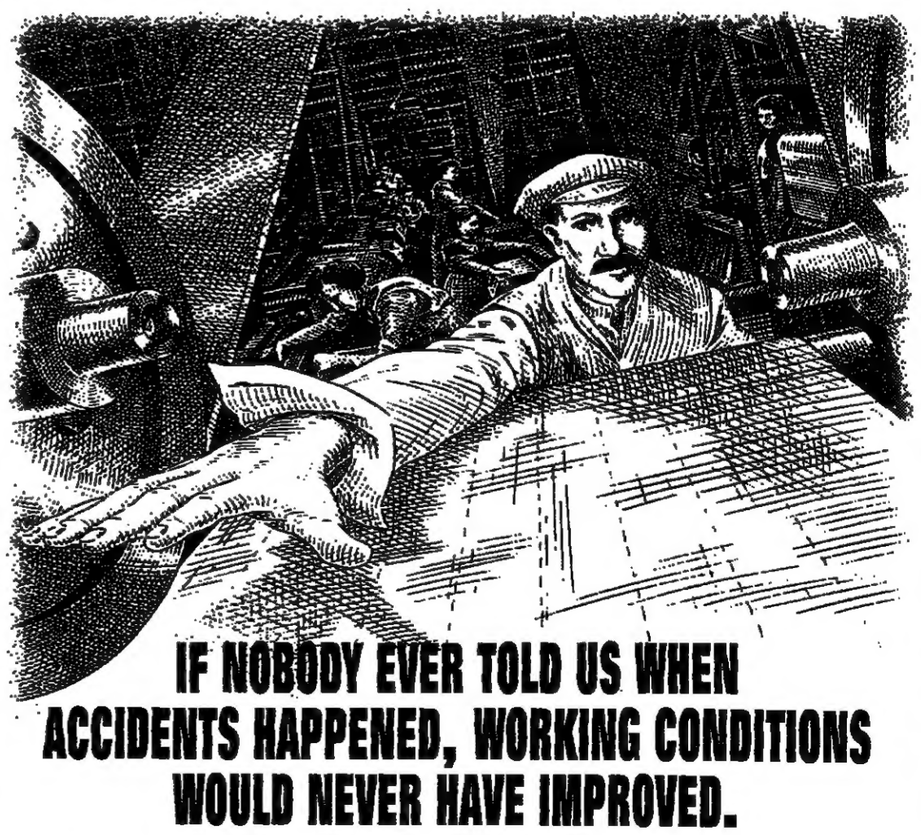
The changes mean that the lottery, which has so far raised £1.74 billion for "good causes", will be investing in people as well as buildings. Until now, spending was restricted to capital costs: under the new proposals, members of the public could ask for money to fund talent-spotting and coaching projects to help young people.

A consultation period on the proposed change is launched today. On May 15, the Arts Council will publish a document setting out proposals. It was too early to know how much money would be paid out under new schemes but reports suggesting £20 million a year were probably of the right order, Mrs Bottomley said.

Rodney Walker, chairman of the Sports Council, said it was aware of the financial sacrifices made by many athletes who took part, for instance, in the Olympics. Because some athletes went on to achieve great earning power, it was possible that loans could be introduced rather than grants, he said.

The Sports Council added that it would be able to pay an extra £200,000 to British athletes going to this year's Olympic Games in Atlanta.

Lord Rothschild, chairman of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, welcomed another planned rule change announced yesterday, which would allow building preservation trusts to apply for lottery funds to improve historic buildings.



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Crown sues Blake for profit from MI6 book

By Frances Gibb, legal correspondent

THE double-agent George Blake was sued by Britain yesterday in an attempt to recover £90,000 he made from a book on his years with MI6.

Blake, who lives in Moscow, having escaped from Wormwood Scrubs in 1961, declined to appear at the High Court or to offer any defence. He is being represented by Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC. Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, the Attorney-General, is suing Blake and his London publisher, Jonathan Cape.

Blake had broken his trust with the security and intelligence services by writing *No Other Choice*. Philip Havers, QC, representing Sir Nicholas, said. It was a "flagrant disregard" of his duties from which he had "unjustly" made money. Mr Havers said that although the book entailed no breach of confidence — Blake had already told the Russians all he knew — he retained a fiduciary duty.

Sir Richard Scott, the Vice-Chancellor, asked: "These secrets may have been revealed to the Russians, but not to the public at large. I don't suppose the book sold well in Russia unless it was translated."

Mr Havers said that Blake had been employed by the Crown and owed it a duty which he had breached, and therefore the remedy would be for the Crown to take any profits he had made by that action.

Blake: escaped from prison to Moscow

Jonathan Cape, which is not defending the action, holds the profits of the book, which have been frozen since it was published in 1991.

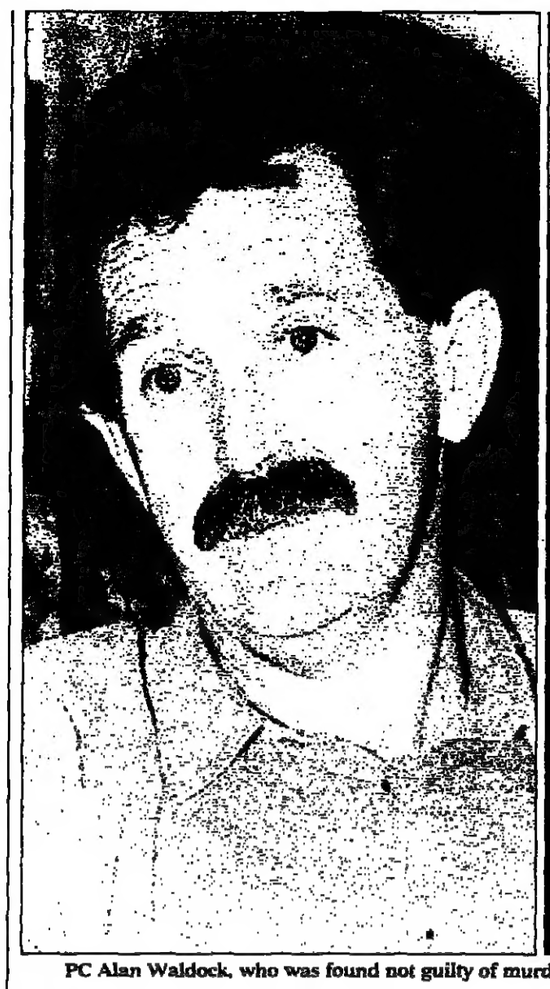
Blake, 73, who has been blamed for the death of several British agents, received a £35,000 advance for the book. *No Other Choice* deals with his time with MI6 between 1947 and 1961, his arrest and conviction in 1961, his escape from prison, and life in Russia.

Sir Richard said he could not see that a member of the security services owed a duty when he had left the service other than not to reveal confidential information.

Mr Havers said that Blake was using his former position to make a profit without authority. "The book would have no interest to publishers unless he was a former intelligence officer." The right to freedom of expression as upheld by the European Court of Human Rights did not affect Blake's breach of duty. "If he has breached that duty, he is liable for the consequences."

Lord Lester, who was appointed by the Crown to look after Blake's interests, said that government ministers should be subject to the same code and stopped from publishing their memoirs if the former security officer was prevented from publishing a story about his life because he was employed by the Crown.

He told Sir Richard, who presided in the *Spycatcher* case when the Crown tried to stop Peter Wright from publishing his MI5 memoirs, that the House of Lords appeal found that Mr Wright's duty was to maintain secrecy. Lord Lester said that, when the Government sues for breach of confidence, it has to prove that restraint of publication is in the public interest. The case continues today.



PC Alan Waldock, who was found not guilty of murder in Portugal; and at his wedding to Doris in 1975

PC cleared of murdering wife is found dead in fume-filled car

By Carol Midgley

A POLICE officer cleared of murdering his wife in a whirlpool bath seven years ago has been found dead in his car. PC Alan Waldock, 42, was called a liar at Doris's inquest by the coroner, who said she was probably killed unlawfully.

PC Waldock was due to have appeared at Bedlington Magistrates' Court, Northumberland, tomorrow charged with credit card fraud. His body was found in the car on an isolated track in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, on Sunday morning. A hosepipe was attached to the exhaust.

PC Waldock, who served with Northumbria Police, was held in custody in Portugal for a year after being arrested for his wife's murder in the Algarve resort of Albufeira in 1988. Mrs Waldock, 33, drowned in a whirlpool bath at their holiday apartment after suffering head injuries. PC Waldock claimed she had slipped and banged her head and he was later cleared of murder by three Portuguese judges. But two Home Office pathologists told an inquest in Britain they believed the bruising to the back of her head was consistent with having been struck by a blunt instrument.

Suspicions that PC Waldock had killed his wife remained, particularly when he admitted to having a mistress. He was shunned by his neighbours and many police colleagues.

Yesterday Mrs Waldock's father, Bob Barber, 71, from Warkworth, Northumberland, said he was always convinced PC Waldock had murdered his daughter. The Barbers had tried to get custody of their grandson but had not seen Christopher, 13, for seven years.

"As far as we're concerned Waldock no longer existed anyway. It is tragic for my grandson, he is the one who has come out of this the worst.

"Maybe it was an attack of conscience after all these years that he decided to kill himself but I don't think he had a conscience. Apparently there were letters left and it will be interesting to see what is in them.

"The way he went on at Doris's funeral still boils my blood. There were tears rolling down his face but they were crocodile tears."

Last July PC Waldock was suspended from his job in the Northumbria Police control room after an alleged credit card fraud. At the time he was suing the force after breaking his arm in an icy police yard.

On March 6 this year he was charged with ten offences of avoiding liability by deception involving £13,000.

PC Waldock had admitted having a string of affairs and once talked to friends about committing the perfect murder.

Mrs Waldock's brother, Detective Sergeant Alan Barber, of Northumbria Police, said after PC Waldock was cleared he bought a car with the registration number H20, the chemical symbol for water. Detective Sergeant Barber said: "He claimed the number plate was just a complete coincidence but we all took the view he was just flaunting the fact."

An inquest was opened in Gloucester yesterday.

Recycling trial puts targets in reach

By Nick Nuttall

A PILOT scheme that recycles domestic rubbish and adds less than £1 a house to a council's annual spending could be adopted across the country.

At the heart of the trial, involving 20,000 homes in West Sussex, are separate plastic boxes into which residents put cans, newspapers and plastic milk and drinks bottles. Those are left at the kerbside for collection. Glass bottles and containers are put in glass banks.

The scheme, centred on Worthing, was originally tested by Adur District Council. Initially Adur used a two-truck system, then Worthing's refuse lorries were redesigned so that only one was needed. They now have three compartments, one for paper, one for plastic and can , and a third for non-recyclable rubbish. A special waste depot sorts rubbish using a high-tech scanner to separate different plastics.

A national project would mean Britain that could meet its targets, under the European Union's packaging directive, of recycling 25 per cent of household waste by 2000 without high costs for industry, councils and consumers.

Peter Hindle, chairman of the integrated waste management group of the Institute of Grocery Distribution, said yesterday: "For less than the cost of a lottery ticket per household we can deliver the household waste recycling that everyone is demanding.

"In essence we can sort detergent and milk plastic bottles from water or fizzy drinks bottles at a rate of four bottles per second with an accuracy of over 97 per cent."

The institute, involving the big supermarket chains as well as bodies such as the Food and Drink Federation and the British Retail Consortium, said that it hoped the scheme would be adopted nationally. An organisation called Valpak has been set up to help the industry to meet recycling targets. Valpak is expected to give cash to councils wanting to copy the West Sussex project. More than 85 per cent of households involved in the trial, the most cost-effective in Europe, have stayed with it for five years.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Posters for drink must be changed

A poster campaign for Black Death Vodka showing a transvestite and a naked man balancing a bowler hat without using his hands was censured by the Committee of Advertising Practice. Richmond Distillers, which was criticised for inciting consumers to drink to excess, must revise its posters.

Dewi Morris, the former England rugby player and the brand's national sales manager, said: "We've been plagued with problems over our posters. Most of them stem from the fact that the Advertising Standards Authority don't appear to have a sense of humour."

Ruling quashed

Two judges in the High Court quashed a youth court ruling that a mother should pay £100 compensation to the Metropolitan Police after her 14-year-old daughter damaged a police car while living in a council children's home in north London.

Paperboy bitten

An alsatian was destroyed after it attacked and injured a 14-year-old paperboy in the Bulwell area of Nottingham. Thomas Sealeaf was treated in hospital for bites to his legs and groin after the dog escaped from a house. Its owners face possible charges.

Policeman killed

A police motorcyclist died and a pedestrian was seriously injured in an accident in Cardiff on Sunday night. PC Anthony Ashmore, 38, was answering an emergency call when his motorcycle hit Austin Large, 21, who is in a critical condition.

Noteworthy find

Workers at a recycling depot sifted through a tonne of old paper and found £150 accidentally thrown away by Muriel Jones, 78, of Harlow, Essex. The bank notes, saved to pay her gas bill, were put out for collection with old newspapers and junk mail.

Briton returns

Robert Lock, 30, who was held for three years in a Thai jail, was expected to arrive at Heathrow early today after being cleared of drug smuggling. Sandra Gregory, who was arrested with Mr Lock, was jailed for 25 years.

Cattle warning

Giant pictures of cows are to be painted on roads in Gloucestershire in an attempt to make drivers slow down. It is hoped the signs will remind drivers that cattle roam on Minchinhampton common in the summer.

Pregnant pause

A trial came to a sudden halt yesterday at Cardiff Crown Court when a key prosecution witness went into labour. Leanne Stokes was taken to hospital by ambulance. The trial was adjourned for two months.

Osprey arrives

A male osprey returned from West Africa to its nesting site in an old Scots pine at Loch Garten near Aviemore in the Highlands. Its mate is expected back at any time. It is believed the same male has nested there for six years.

Red all over

A news release about literacy in English schools from the Department for Education and Employment announced the setting up of a literacy centre under the title "Hampshire and the Isle of White to lead blitz on basics".

DNA phenomenon proves bones are those of Tsar

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

NEW genetic tests have proved beyond doubt that bones dug up in eastern Russia five years ago are those of Tsar Nicholas II, who was murdered by the Bolsheviks in 1918.

The identification was already almost certain after DNA tests at the Home Office Forensic Laboratory at Aldermaston showed close matches between the DNA of the presumed Tsarina and that of the Duke of Edinburgh, who shared a great-grandmother.

There remained a tiny doubt over the Tsar's bones, however, after a failure to achieve a perfect match with the DNA of two surviving maternal relations, Countess Xenia Cheremeteff-Sfiri and the Duke of Fife. At one position along the mitochondrial DNA, which is inherited through the maternal line, the Tsar showed an anomaly that did not match his two relations.

DNA consists of long molecules whose code is formed by the order of occurrence of four "bases" — adenine, cytosine, guanine and thymine. At position 16169 on the DNA sequence, the two relations both had a thymine, while the bones believed to come from the Tsar had a cytosine. Further analysis showed that the Tsar's DNA was in fact a mixture: 70 per cent of it had cytosine at this position and the other 30 per cent thymine, a phenomenon known to geneticists as heteroplasmy.

Tsar Nicholas: brother was exhumed for tests

Faced with this discrepancy, Dr Peter Gill at Aldermaston was able to put at no more than 98.5 per cent the probability that the remains were the Tsar's. The Russian Orthodox Church demanded stronger proof. As a result Tsar Nicholas's brother, Grand Duke Georgij, was exhumed from his grave in St Peter and St Paul Cathedral in St Petersburg in July 1994.

Georgij died of TB in 1899 at the age of 28. The Russian forensic scientist Dr Pavel Ivanov took samples of DNA from his leg bones and they were analysed at the US Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory in Rockville, Maryland. The Grand Duke's DNA shows heteroplasmy occurring at exactly the same position — extremely unlikely if the two were not related.

Reporting in *Nature Genetics*, the scientists calculate that the sequence match, the fact that there is heteroplasmy at the same position, and the close match between DNA from the Tsarina and the Duke of Edinburgh, mean that the DNA data are 100 million times more likely if the remains are those of the Romanovs than if they are from an unrelated family.

"Given that the anthropological and circumstantial evidence was also considered conclusive for the identification of the Romanovs, there now appears to be no reasonable scientific objection to accepting the authenticity of the remains," the scientists conclude.

This is the first time that heteroplasmy phenomenon has been used in a case of human identification. The evidence is that these DNA mixtures occur spontaneously and were passed to the two Romanov boys by their mother, although in slightly different proportions: while Tsar Nicholas has 72 per cent cytosine and 28 per cent thymine, the proportions are almost reversed in the Grand Duke.

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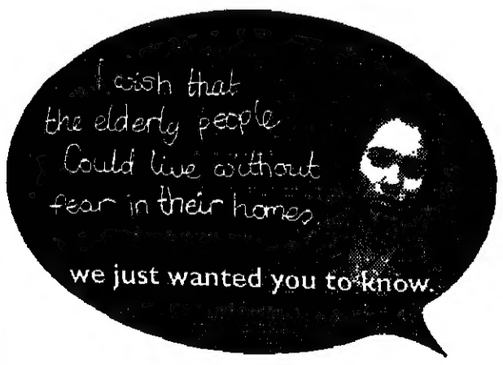

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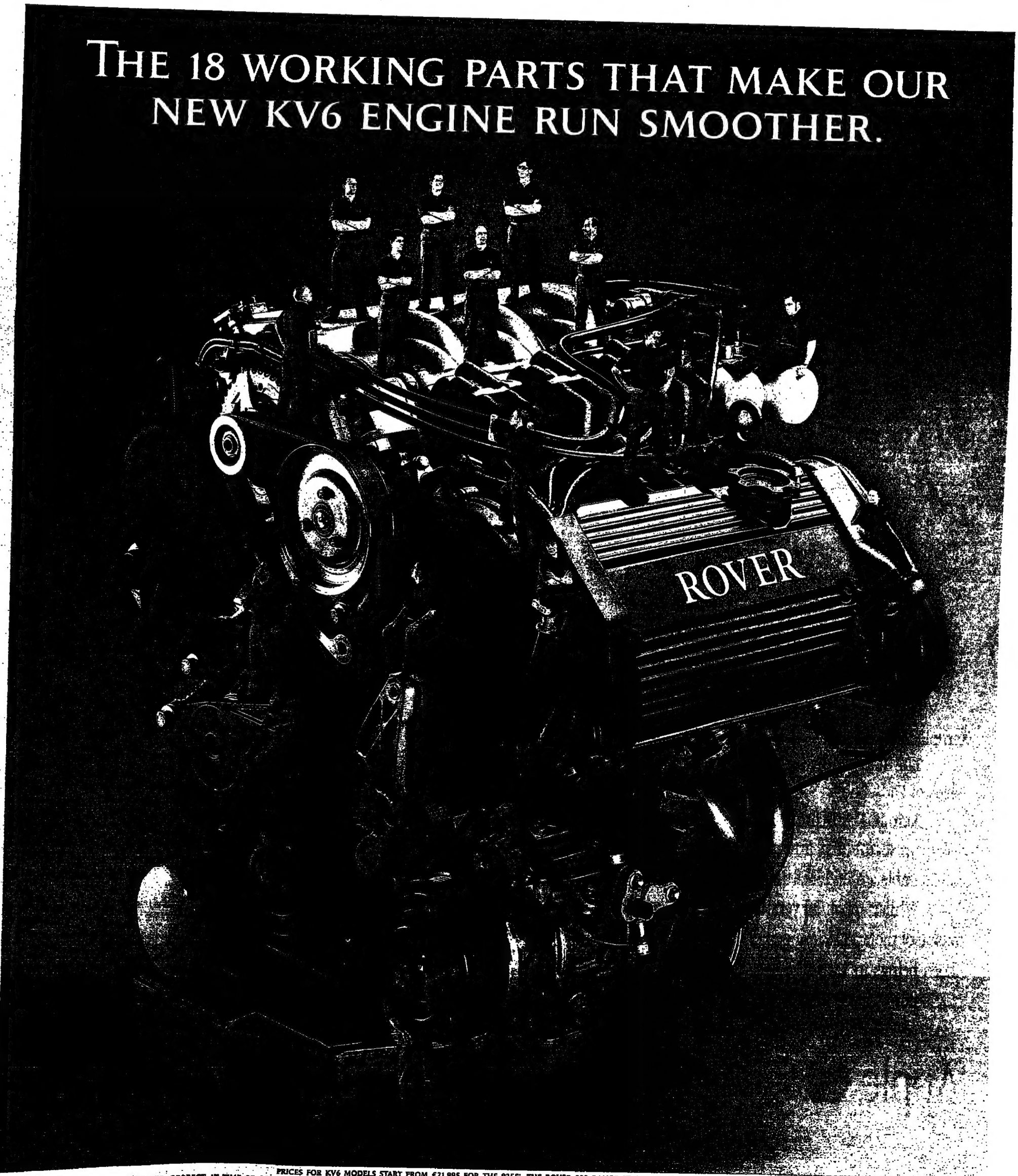

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Single mothers must name fathers or lose more benefit

Lilley: hopes to save £40 million a year

By Dominic Kennedy
Social Affairs Correspondent

PETER LILLEY is today expected to dock nearly £20 a week from the income of single mothers who refuse to name the fathers of their children.

The Social Security Secretary hopes to save £40 million a year by taking action against the 50,000 single mothers on income support who will not co-operate with the Child Support Agency. The women are already punished by having 20 per cent of their £46.50 a week personal allowance docked for six months and 10 per cent for the next 12 months. After that, their benefit returns to normal.

Mr Lilley wants to halt the growth in the numbers of unco-operative mothers by increasing that penalty, removing 40 per cent of their allowance, or £18.60. He will be accused of snatching money from the families of battered women. Although there is an exemption for those who fear being assaulted by former partners, researchers say that many vulnerable women are unaware of this right.

Ideally, ministers would like to cut benefits indefinitely but since this could require legislation they will probably settle for a time limit. The amount of money women are paid for each child — £15.95 a week for under-11s and £23.40 for those aged 11 to 15 — will be unaffected.

Caroline Glendinning, author of a Joseph Rowntree Foundation report on the CSA published yesterday, said: "You can't protect the living standards of children from a cut like that." Families pooled income rather than dividing it between parents and children. She knew of women worried about violence who were put under pressure to co-operate with the CSA without being properly informed of their right to refuse.

The Department of Social Security believes that the system is much abused. It says that in cases where it refuses to accept that women have good cause to be afraid of naming the father, only a few appeal against the decision. Many then withdraw their claims for benefit, raising suspicion of fraud. Only one in 25 single mothers whose benefit is now cut complains of hardship, suggesting they have another source of income, possibly from absent fathers colluding against the agency.

Frank Field, Labour MP and chairman of the Social Security Select Committee, welcomed the crackdown but said that it should have happened years ago. "We are talking about penalties on parents many of whom are clearly colluding against the taxpayer," he said.

But the National Council for One Parent Families condemned Mr Lilley's proposals. "It is extremely dangerous to assume that non-co-operation with the agency necessarily indicates fraud," Karin Pappenheim, the director, said. "We know that the number of lone parents applying for exemption is broadly consistent with levels of domestic violence. Many have well-founded fears that naming the father of their child would increase the risk of violence."

Gummer heralds competition in water industry

By Arthur Leathley, Political Correspondent

WATER companies will be forced to compete with a new generation of smaller firms under plans announced by the Government yesterday.

John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, hailed the new reforms as only the first stage in a wide-ranging programme of changes aimed at improving services and reducing prices. He published a consultation paper setting out his plans to extend competition by allowing new companies access to water and sewerage pipes.

The proposed changes would also remove restrictions limiting companies to specific areas of the country and would enable the present suppliers to sub-contract water services.

However, consumer groups and industry analysts were sceptical about whether the changes would loosen the water companies' grip on the market and whether customers would see lower prices in the short term. Opposition politicians accused the Government of launching a "cosmetic" exercise to disguise the problem of increased charges and poor services in the water industry. They also complained that the moves would affect only a minute proportion of businesses and would not reach domestic users for many years, if at all.

The changes will apply only to the supply of water to Britain's largest companies, or those using an unusually large amount of water, such as steel works and breweries. These include about 600 companies that consume more than 220,000 gallons of water a year, equivalent to the daily water supply to 500,000 domestic consumers.

Mr Gummer said: "The Government is looking to increase progressively competition in the water industry within a strong regulatory framework designed to ensure effective protection and enhancement of water quality and the environment. Competition provides opportunities for customers to choose the combination of price and service which best meets their particular needs. Where such choice does already exist, competition offers operators the opportunity to provide it where they believe it would be profitable."

Labour claimed that the proposals fell short of promises made by John Major to Tories in Harrogate this weekend, when he said that benefits enjoyed in other privatised utilities would be felt by water customers. The Prime Minister said that telephone calls were now among the cheapest in Europe, and electricity and gas prices had fallen.

But Frank Dobson, Shadow Environment Secretary, said Mr Major had gone back on his word. "We all know how the Tories make promises and break promises but it usually takes longer than 48 hours. This must be some sort of record.

"These proposals do nothing about the fundamental failings of the privatised water industry with its soaring prices, profits and bosses' pay and perks. It does nothing to stop the scandal of the environmental damage of taking too much water from rivers and lakes during dry spells."

Marshall Whiting, a water industry analyst, said: "The practical problems of introducing competition into local monopolies are going to be enormous and I think they are just trying to bang the drum." Water privatisation differed from that of the gas, telecommunications and electricity industries because water was a natural resource, varying from region to region.

Householders will not benefit yet

By Alasdair Murray

THE Government's plans are unlikely to bring down domestic water bills in the forseeable future, industry experts say.

There are fears that householders could even have to pay more as companies try to recoup lost revenue from major users by increasing prices for other customers. But Ofwat, the water regulator, said it was taking steps to prevent companies passing on costs to domestic consumers.

Peter Boulding, of the Centre for Regulated Industry, said: "The major cause of rising bills over the past few years has been EU water quality legislation. Many of the directives are not yet in force and bills will still rise even with competition." The chief beneficiaries of the Government's plan would be the 600 major industrial water users, which include the brewers and chemical companies such as ICI. Companies using more than 250 megalitres a year would be able to negotiate a price directly with a water company of their choice.

The Government and Ofwat say that the common carriage principle will be gradually expanded to include domestic consumers. The Government is also keen to remove the water company's monopoly over connections, allowing new homeowners to find a cheaper alternative. But consumer groups emphasised that there were major practical difficulties to overcome before water competition could become a reality.

ALAN WELLER

Screen presence: Gordon Brown in Tamworth and Tony Blair in London holding a press conference yesterday

Brown attacks Tory 'tax hypocrisy'

By Jill Sherman
Political Correspondent

COUNCIL tax increases that come into effect this week will be equivalent to a 2p rise in the basic rate of income tax, Gordon Brown claimed yesterday.

The Shadow Chancellor, campaigning in the Staffordshire South East by-election, said that Tory plans meant that 22 national tax rises over the past three years would be followed by three years of council tax increases. "Today we have the real tax double whammy — the new April Tory tax bombshell."

Mr Brown, speaking via satellite link to a press conference in London, said that that the council tax rises and higher business rates would cancel out any extra money that people would receive from income tax cuts. He added: "It shows the hypocrisy of the Tories."

Council tax payers would have to pay an extra £2.5 billion. Once business rates had been taken into account it would be increased to at least £3.5 billion, he said.

Last week Brian Mawhinney, the Tory chairman, made clear that the party would start campaigning on the return if the "feel-good" factor, through lower mortgages, lower tax bills and lower unemployment. But Labour is determined to counter any possible Tory revival.

Yesterday Tony Blair said: "What the Tories are giving back with one hand, they are taking with the other. People are still paying tax on more of their income, they are still paying higher mortgages than they would have been and they are still paying the new taxes.

"And now the Tories have found a new backdoor way to put taxes up — they are holding back government support to councils and forcing council taxes up to fund the tax cuts they want to introduce in the Budget."

Mr Blair referred to an admission by William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, that the Government was assuming an 8 per cent increase in council taxes this year. He also quoted Paul Britan, head of local government finance at the Department of the Environment in 1995, who said that ministers intended the proportion of council tax to rise from 21 per cent ot 26 per cent by 1998 or 1999.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: questions to national heritage ministers and the Lord Chancellor's Department; Prime Minister's statement on the outcome of the Turin summit; statement by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, on measures to strengthen the prevention of Terrorism Act in response to IRA violence; opposition day debate on the council tax. In the Lords: Education (Student Loans) Bill, third reading.

TODAY in the Commons: questions to defence ministers and the Prime Minister; debate on amendments to the Prevention of Terrorism Act. In the Lords: Dangerous Dogs (Amendment) Bill; Chemical Weapons Bill; Arbitration Bill; Deer (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill.

Libel law reform may cut awards

By Alice Thomson

MASSIVE libel awards could become a rarity under reforms being debated in the Lords today which would ensure that judges rather than juries fix damages in most cases.

The Defamation Bill aims to create a new fast track for libel cases handled by judges in an attempt to end the wide variation in sums at present awarded against newspapers and broadcasters by juries.

It is hoped that it will weed out large numbers of claims that now go to jury trial in the hope of big awards, and that it will help those who have been deterred from bringing cases because of the costs.

The Bill, put forward by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, would mean that smaller libel actions could be dealt with quickly and cheaply. Plaintiffs would be able to go straight to a judge to seek an order that the record be put straight. Awards could be granted for damages of up to £5,000. The advantage would be swift corrections and moderate compensation rather than a long, unwieldy and expensive court case.

The Bill also proposes new defences for defendants willing to offer amends to plaintiffs and for printers and distributors, who can be sued even though they are not primarily responsible for publication.

Lord Hoffmann originally proposed the Bill, which has wide support from the legal profession.

Leading article, page 19

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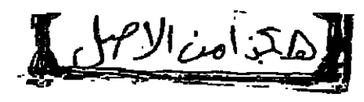


Pressure grows to expel dissident after envoy's warning of risk to British exports

Fears over Saudi furore as BBC screens execution

By Michael Binyon, diplomatic editor, and Michael Evans

A NEW row between Britain and Saudi Arabia is threatening to jeopardise millions of pounds of British exports after BBC's *Panorama* last night showed explicit scenes of a man being publicly executed with a sword.

The programme, likely to inflame sensitivities in Riyadh, came as the Saudi Ambassador gave a warning that the continued presence in Britain of Muhammad al-Masari, a leading Saudi dissident, could lead to the cancellation of the huge arms contracts and would harm Britain's relations with Saudi Arabia. Britain has signed defence contracts with Riyadh worth £20 billion.

His warning followed an admission to an Arab newspaper by Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, that the Government was searching for another country to take Dr Masari after Dominica, the island to which Britain had hoped to deport him, had now closed its doors to him.

Dr Ghazi al-Ghosaibi, the Saudi Ambassador, told *Panorama* that unless the Government expelled Dr Masari, millions of pounds worth of contracts would be lost.

"If you are so insistent that I am going to tell you that the continued presence here will harm British relations and threaten British relations, I'm going to tell you that, yes," he said. He denied this amounted to blackmail by the Saudi Government.

"No, that's not blackmail. That's friends discussing a problem that is affecting both of them ... It's not blackmail; blackmail is when you do something illegal ... We are a sovereign country. We can buy wherever we want."

Dr al-Ghosaibi, whose remarks are only part of a lengthy interview he gave to *Panorama*, did not give any specific deadline for the expulsion of Dr Masari, and Saudi sources were anxious to play down any Saudi demand to Britain. Sources close to the royal family say privately that Saudi Arabia has made as mistake in drawing attention to Dr Masari and should now ignore him.

The film of the execution is likely to cause more offence, however. Saudi Arabia reacted furiously to the BBC television documentary *Death of a Princess* in 1980.

Executions in Saudi Arabia are prescribed for murder, rape, drug smuggling and child abuse, and are carried out in public outside a mosque after prayers on Fridays. The Saudi authorities make no attempt to prevent foreigners attending if they wish, but filming is forbidden.

The *Panorama* footage, filmed secretly, has been in existence for some time. The film shows the entire execution, but the producers decided on grounds of taste not to show the actual decapitation of the prisoner.

A spokesman yesterday said there had never been any question of including that scene, nor had *Panorama* held it out because of pressure from the Saudis or from the Government.

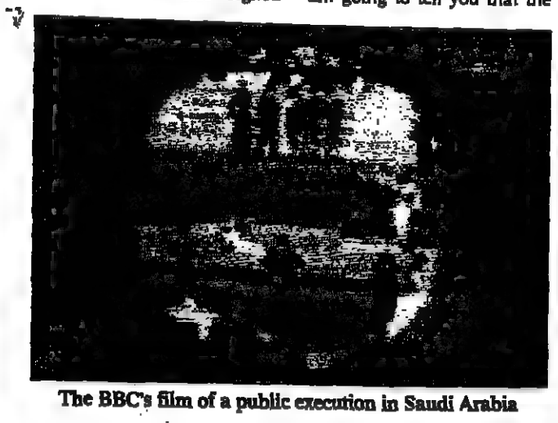
Arelene Hernot, a Filipina, claimed on last night's programme that she was flogged for going out in the evening for dinner with male friends. Under Saudi law females may not be seen in public in the company of a male who is not a relative.

The Government is now desperately searching for a country that will agree to take Dr Masari because Dominica has changed its mind, following a court ruling last month.

Britain had previously reached an agreement to deport him there but last month Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, was told by an immigration appeals court judge to reconsider the deportation order.

Judge David Pearl, the chief immigration adjudicator, said there was "some force" in the argument that Dominica lacked sufficient police resources to protect the Saudi dissident. He also said Dominica might come under outside political pressure to expel Dr Masari to Saudi Arabia.

Yesterday, Ashworth Elwin, High Commissioner for Dominica in London, denied his Government had been under any pressure to withdraw the proposal to take Dr Masari. It had decided to do so purely because of the court ruling. Mr Elwin said Dominica was not prepared to install special safety measures for the dissident.



The BBC's film of a public execution in Saudi Arabia

Arelene Hernot, a Filipina, who claimed she was flogged for dining out with her husband and male friends

Muslims defy Serb rule over frontline villages

From Stacy Sullivan in Kovacevici

THE map-makers in Dayton, Ohio, neatly partitioned Bosnia-Herzegovina in two, but a sloppy pen stroke has left six all-Muslim villages on the wrong side of the line.

In the hills of northern Bosnia, about 15 miles east of Tuzla, the six hamlets theoretically came under Bosnian Serb control last month. The Muslim villagers, unlike the Serbs who fled Sarajevo when it came under the Bosnian Government's domain, are determined to stay. They have refused to let Serb authorities enter Kovacevici and the Serbs have not dared to try.

"I know we are on the wrong side of the line," said Mirsad Kahrimanovic, 25, whose surname is shared by most villagers. Mirsad, who spent the past three years defending Kovacevici, said: "Why should we leave? We are Muslims and we have always lived here."

Kovacevici, which sits on the old front line, does not look habitable. All the walls of its 250 homes are crumbling and there are gaping holes in them from the shell fire that they were subjected to from only yards away. Most have roofs missing. However, the villagers, like most in Bosnia, have a bond with their land and are rebuilding their homes.

Embarrassed Bosnian government officials say they cannot understand how these six villages ended up in the Serb nation and are trying to negotiate a land swap.

The villagers appear remarkably calm. After a flurry of meetings, the 600 people of Kovacevici decided that being in the Serb entity was not all that bad as long as they could remain in their village.

"The Serb police haven't dared come here yet and they probably won't," said Ferid Kahrimanovic, 40. "If I were a Serb, I'd be ashamed to come here after all that they've done. If they never managed to come here with all their tanks and equipment, how can they do it now with only small guns?"

He has a point. Given that there are no roads from Serb territory to Kovacevici, Serb police would have to pass through Bosnian territory to reach their village by car: a venture that few Serb police would be likely to undertake.

Less than a mile from Kovacevici is a Serb village. "We could have taken their village because the Serbs abandoned it," said Mirsad. "But we didn't want to. It's theirs." He added: "Before the war we knew them well, but we don't want anything to do with them now."

Chechens ignore Yeltsin's truce and kill 28 Russians

From Thomas de Waal in Moscow

RUSSIAN soldiers in an armoured column in Chechenia suffered heavy casualties yesterday, hours after President Yeltsin's new peace plan came into force.

Twenty-eight soldiers were killed and 69 wounded when Chechen rebels attacked a convoy near the southern mountain village of Vedeno in the early hours of the morning, Interfax news agency reported. It gave no estimate of Chechen casualties.

The plan, which provides for a ceasefire and a partial withdrawal of troops from Chechenia, came into effect at midnight on Sunday. There were no reports of shelling by the Russians yesterday, but television reports in Moscow said Russian troop positions had been fired on 12 times.

The Russian commander in Chechenia, General Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, threw the plan's success into doubt by saying his troops might fight on, albeit at reduced intensity.

The Russians have been using bombers and heavy artillery to pound a group of Chechen villagers into submission in recent weeks, paying no regard to civilian casualties.

General Lev Rokhlin, who commanded the capture of Grozny in February last year and now heads the Russian parliament's Defence Committee, complained that the truce could be a "repetition of the past" in which the Chechens used a ceasefire to regroup for fresh hostilities.

There was no reaction from the rebel leader, General Dzhokhar Dudayev, to Mr Yeltsin's most conciliatory proposal: the Russian President has offered to hold indirect talks through intermediaries. Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet President, and Mintimer Shaimiyev, President of Tartarstan, both offered themselves as mediators.

The Russians refuse to talk directly to General Dudayev, calling him a criminal, while he says that he is only prepared to discuss full independence for Chechenia.

☐ Trip cancelled: President Yeltsin yesterday postponed his scheduled trip to Ukraine on Thursday, the sixth time he has altered plans to visit his Slav neighbour in 18 months.

His press spokesman, Sergei Medvedev, said the delay was because Moscow and Kiev had yet to settle a long-running dispute on how to divide the ageing Black Sea Fleet, based in the Crimean port of Sevastopol since 1783.

German press rages at Britain over compensation demands

From Roger Boyes in Bonn

THE German press yesterday expressed outrage at British demands for total compensation for the loss of its beef herds and struck out at John Major's "national egotism".

The sharp tone seemed to reflect Bonn's impatience and was the fiercest broadside against the British Government for several months.

The attacks were launched as anxiety about "mad cow" disease affected the German food economy. Slaughterhouses and butchers' shops are reporting up to 65 per cent loss of trade. Breakfast staples, such as liver sausage, and regional specialities containing offal and brain have almost disappeared.

Even chocolate manufacturers — because of a suspicion that British animal fat may be used — and milk distributors are talking of a collapse in demand. Supermarket beef prices are being slashed and the meat is clearly marked as German, but customers are giving it a wide berth.

Yet British beef accounts for about 0.1 per cent of German beef consumption, and of 108 cases of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease reported since 1994 only two could conceivably be the new variant. The latest suspected victim of the new strain was identified yesterday as a woman in her early thirties who was mainly vegetarian and had never visited Britain.

The *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* declared: "In Turin it was surprising to see the coldness and toughness with which the British are playing their insular game of 'one against all', interpreting European solidarity as a one-way street. This can be seen either as the beginning of disintegration of Europe or of an emerging 'core'. In any case the family is no longer together — Britain is moving off." Most commentators seem upset that Britain did not immediately dilute its opposition to tighter European integration in return for financial assistance.

The *Süddeutsche Zeitung* lamented: "European members are using the Union as a kind of repair shop for mistakes made in national policy — everyone is holding out his hand for money." The paper also said: "It is important to put the spotlight on Britain's greed for profits".

Der Spiegel decided that the "mad cow" outbreak was a sign of a more general British decline.

The idea that British compensation should be partly financed by cutting the British budget rebate seems to have been hatched by Joachim Bitterlich, foreign policy adviser to Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor. British Euro-sceptics are furious at this form of financing.

Plourac'h, Brittany: French health officials yesterday began destroying a 124-strong herd of cattle in this village after one animal was found to have "mad cow" disease. It was the third herd destroyed in France this year because of the disease. All but three of the 16 cases discovered in France since 1991 have been in Brittany. *(Reuter)*

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To apply for RHS membership and/or an RHS video for just £1.98, collect four tokens (tokens for both offers will appear daily this week) and attach the relevant tokens to the corresponding application form. A membership application form will appear again on Friday and a video application form will appear on Saturday, both with full details of the offers.

THE TIMES — THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY — GARDEN VIDEO TOKEN 2

THE TIMES — THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY — MEMBERSHIP TOKEN 3

Bonn will take over information highway

By Oliver August

GERMANY will dominate Europe once again in the new information age, according to a survey out today.

By 2000 the German media will occupy half of the European Internet, putting it on a par with its American competitors.

"Germany will be the dominant market in Europe, accounting for about 50 per cent of all subscribers to online news and magazine services," according to a Datamonitor report. The success is the result of the country's rolling investment in new technology.

Frazer Pearce, a business analyst and author of the report, said: "Germany has the greatest potential for growth because of the high number of people who buy PCs. It also has a cable television system that, used with the telephone, can provide a faster transmission."

France and Britain could have matched Germany's armoury in the technology race, but their problems result from bad decisions made when computer technology entered the market.

In Britain systems such as Teletext are underdeveloped because of poor funding, while the French are suffering from overzealous earlier efforts.

Their Minitel system is much more versatile than Teletext, but it is also deterring many households from buying computers. Only half as many people have bought personal computers in France as in Britain.

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Alerts in Atlanta and Montana

Anti-terror force deploys for action in Olympics city

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA is marshalling an anti-terrorist army in Atlanta for a series of exercises a day before the anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing and amid fears of attacks on the Olympic Games.

The manoeuvres will involve the FBI, CIA, Pentagon and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and feature mock attacks on the Olympic village, hostage negotiations and bomb-disposal drills.

Although security officials from Georgia are being briefed on international anti-terrorism methods by experts in Israel, the FBI is also said to be concerned about the threat posed by radical militia groups within the US.

Since the 1972 attack in Munich against Israeli athletes by Black September, an Arab terrorist group, security has been a priority at the Olympics.

President Clinton has agreed that the Olympic torch should cross the White House lawn en route to Atlanta. He will formally open the Games in July and plans to host a party for all athletes in Washington afterwards. White House aides hope Mr Clinton will benefit from an Olympic "feel-good" factor just as Ronald Reagan used the 1984 Los Angeles Games as part of his re-election campaign. Mr Reagan opened the Olympics from a bullet-proof box. Mr Clinton's profile is expected to be higher in Atlanta.

McVeigh: transferred to Denver for hearing

Experts intend that the anti-terrorist exercises in two weeks' time should supplement the training and preparations of the security forces to be deployed at the Olympics. These include up to 20,000 guards, 10,000 soldiers, as many as 2,000 FBI agents and Swat teams as well as members of the CIA and Secret Service.

"The FBI will be taking the lead and we will be working through some of the scenarios that could happen," a Pentagon official said yesterday. "Prevention is one of the better things to have at your disposal."

Even with their formidable array of anti-terrorist forces, some experts believe that the American authorities are devoting too much attention to Olympic sites and not doing enough to protect hotels, office buildings, power stations and the water supply.

A training exercise in February, involving a mock siege at an Atlanta subway, left doubts about the capability of the local police force to protect the 11,000 athletes and two million visitors who will converge on the city.

The exercises, which will take place over two days before the April 19 anniversary of the Oklahoma City disaster, come as a reminder of the worst act of terrorism in American history.

Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, the two suspects in the bombing which killed 169 people and maimed hundreds more, have been transferred to a jail in Denver, Colorado, for a preliminary hearing next week. In the meantime, almost $300 million (£190 million) is being spent to install closed-circuit television cameras and bomb-resistant glass at many of the country's 8,200 federal facilities.

Tension between Washington and radical anti-government militias continues. The FBI is engaged in a stand-off with armed militants calling themselves the Freemen in Montana, where cautious federal agents are involved in a waiting game. They are anxious to avoid repeating the Branch Davidian disaster in Waco, Texas, three years ago, when more than 80 members of the cult died.

That incident, which gave rise to wide-scale resentment against the FBI, is thought to have spawned the Oklahoma bombing two years later.

Sympathisers of the Freemen were yesterday starting to rally support for the militia at Lewistown, about 120 miles west of their ranch.

One of the rescued kittens being fed at North Shore Animal League's shelter at Port Washington, New York

Red-letter day for boss cat Scarlet

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK firemen are saluting the mother courage of a cat which ran repeatedly into a blaze to rescue her five kittens. By the end of her fifth sortie, her eyes were swollen by blisters, her fur singed and paws raw, but she had saved the four-week-old litter.

The cat, named Scarlet by firemen, was resting yesterday with the kittens at a veterinary shelter. Despite Scarlet's battered visage and bandaged limbs, more than 500 people telephoned to offer her a home.

"We were putting out this fire in an abandoned building when I heard this cat crying," said fireman David Gianelli. "Then we saw she was bringing her little guys down and putting them outside the building. She ran in and out of that building five times to get them all out."

Scarlet carried the kittens in her mouth. She deposited each one gently and gave it a nudge of reassurance before darting back inside the blazing building.

Marge Stein, of the North Shore Animal League, where the telephone scarcely stopped ringing with offers of a home for Scarlet, said: "I think people hear so many stories about evil in the world that when there is something like this they want to help."

Larry Cohen, a vet, added: "Cats and dogs have a strong instinct to save their young, but this is the most dramatic example I have ever seen."

Scarlet with her fur singed and right paw bandaged after rescuing her litter from a burning building

Call for colony to free 400 refugees

Hong Kong: Human rights lawyers said yesterday they would ask the High Court to order the release of up to 400 Vietnamese boat people jailed in the colony unless the Government frees them at once.

The ultimatum by Refugee Concern came after a ruling last week by the Privy Council, Hong Kong's final court of appeal, releasing 15 refugees whose continued detention was "an affront to the standards of the civilised society" to which Hong Kong aspired. After talks with the lawyers yesterday, the Government said it would reconsider the cases of the boat people, ethnic Chinese who are unwelcome in Vietnam. *(Reuter)*

Brazil prisoners reject gun offer

Rio de Janeiro: Inmates holding 23 hostages at a maximum security prison north of Rio de Janeiro have rejected the Government's offer of guns, money and getaway cars. The prisoners seized 40 officials and journalists during a tour of the jail four days ago. Meanwhile in Argentina, prisoners at four jails in Buenos Aires jails were holding 25 hostages, demanding that their sentences be reduced by half. *(AP, AFP)*

Dismissal plea

London: Residents of the Caribbean Turks and Caicos islands, one of Britain's last colonies, demanded the Governor's dismissal for remarks in a magazine about drug and crime problems. *(Reuter)*

Korean aid plea

Geneva: North Korea, admitting it is in trouble after floods last year, has agreed that the UN could launch a new world appeal for aid. Two months ago, it did not want such an appeal. *(Reuter)*

Rwandans held

Yaounde, Cameroon: A former Rwandan army colonel accused of masterminding the 1994 massacre of at least half a million people is among 12 Rwandan suspects being held here, officials said. *(AP)*

Nigerians unite

Oslo: Nigerian opposition groups agreed in principle to form a united front against the country's military dictatorship during a meeting at the weekend, their Norwegian hosts revealed. *(AP)*

Fiat 'father' dies

Turin: Dante Giacosa, the car designer known as the "Father of the Fiat 500", who gave Italians some of their best-loved vehicles in his 40 years with the Turin company, has died aged 91. *(Reuter)*

Births 'success'

Peking: About 20.6 million people were born in China last year, 470,000 less than in 1994. The China News Service cited this as evidence of success for the nation's tough family planning policy. *(Reuter)*

Thirst offence

Luanda: Angolan police arrested a gang who stole angle-iron pylon supports from a water treatment plant, cutting the city's water supplies for two weeks, to make windows and doors. *(Reuter)*

European move to condemn Peking over human rights

FROM PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA

EUROPEAN Union countries, including Britain, have rejected a promise by China to improve its human rights record and are to seek a resolution condemning Peking at the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

EU diplomats yesterday said that concessions offered by China after the Europe-Asia summit in Bangkok last month were unsatisfactory. A resolution, which is bound to provoke Chinese anger, would be presented with America's backing a few days before the end of the Commission's annual session here on April 26.

The text is said to appeal to China to abide by several international human rights conventions and refers to Tibet as well as violations of cultural, religious and political rights. It also calls for better protection of children after reports on the treatment of some orphans, according to European diplomats. They conceded, however, that China had made progress on reforming its penal system.

Peking regards a direct confrontation as deeply embarrassing. It has lobbied successfully against similar resolutions in the 53-member international human rights monitoring body in the past five years, avoiding condemnation in 1995 by one vote.

Although diplomats privately admitted that the outcome was likely to be the same this year, one European official described the move as a "final showdown" aimed at maintaining pressure on China.

Peking has repeatedly warned Western countries not to take action in Geneva and has hinted at a negative impact on trade. It is understood to have offered reforms in exchange for a promise not to table the resolution. Some EU countries, including France and Germany, were anxious to avoid a clash.

☐ **Peking:** Wang Lin, 37, a Chinese state intelligence agent in the land reclamation department of northeastern Heilongjiang province, has been jailed for nine years for selling state secrets to foreign diplomats. *(Reuter)*

Spies 'proved China helped Pakistan get nuclear bomb'

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

AMERICAN spies secretly rifled the luggage of Pakistan's chief nuclear weapons designer while he was on an overseas trip, according to a report published yesterday. Inside was the first concrete evidence of Chinese collaboration with Pakistan's efforts to build a nuclear bomb.

The search, in the early 1980s, yielded a drawing of a crude but highly reliable Hiroshima-sized weapon that could have come only from Peking, according to US officials. Afterwards, American nuclear scientists made a model of the weapon and confronted Pakistan's Foreign Minister in Washington. They wanted to demonstrate to Pakistan that the US knew more about its nuclear weapons programme than it realised. But the Minister, Yakub Khan, denied any knowledge of Chinese assistance, claiming no such bomb existed.

This cloak-and-dagger account appeared in *The Washington Post*. That such sensitive intelligence information was leaked was evidence of a serious split inside the Clinton Administration between those seeking sanctions and others who do not want to imperil America's huge and growing investment in China.

It is a critical issue for President Clinton. If Washington has proof of the Chinese help, he is required by law to halt US government loan guarantees worth $10 billion (£6.6 billion) to American firms doing business with China.

The matter has come to a head with the US intelligence discovery that the Chinese National Nuclear Corporation has been selling magnets to Pakistan for a centrifuge producing fissile material for nuclear weapons. Pakistan has denied getting the aid. China says any such sale was for peaceful purposes.

Helms: "China will be an election issue"

The loan guarantees have been frozen, but Mr Clinton's senior policymakers failed to reach agreement during an hour-long White House meeting. One solution is for the President to impose a penalty, then waive it. Or he could limit sanctions to the Chinese factory involved. Either way, he would have to cite national interest as the reason.

The snag is that, with the election looming, the Republicans are gearing up to attack him as soft on China in the face of its war games against Taiwan, human rights record, piracy of Western CDs and software, and determined exports of nuclear know-how.

Notice that China will become an election issue was served by Jesse Helms, the Republican chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He has declared that the Administration "has neither a strategy nor resolve" for dealing with Peking.

UN ends promise of job for life with 800 redundancies

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE days when a job at the United Nations virtually guaranteed a lifetime of secure employment came to an abrupt halt yesterday with the start of sweeping job cuts that will trim almost 8 per cent of UN staff.

Joseph Connor, the retired Price Waterhouse executive who is now the UN's chief financial officer, summoned ambassadors yesterday to announce that 800 of the organisation's 10,115 secretarial staff will have to leave this year.

News that the dreaded phenomenon of "downsizing" had reached the UN spread gloom throughout the headquarters in New York, where staff traipsed from one farewell party to the next for colleagues.

The cuts were forced on the UN by an aggressive US Administration responding to criticism of the organisation by the Republican-controlled Congress.

But the staff reductions were welcomed by other big contributors to the UN budget, including Britain. "It's a good idea to try to move forward with a leaner and more efficient organisation that delivers results without wasting money," said one British official.

For the first time, the UN budget has shrunk by $252 million (£168 million) to a total of $2.6 billion (£1.7 billion) for the two years 1996-97.

About 500 of the 800 job cuts this year are expected to come from keeping posts open when staff leave. But the remaining 300 will be achieved through a generous buy-out programme that compensates UN staff who choose to quit.

The first wave of voluntary redundancies has already begun in a process that many UN staff say will simply guarantee that all the best officials leave to find other jobs while the dead wood remains.

The most prominent official to accept the buy-out so far is François Giuliani, a Frenchman who worked at the UN for 24 years. He is to take up a post as spokesman for New York's Metropolitan Opera.

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Audiences slaughter Hollywood pirates at box office

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

HOLLYWOOD executives, plus some badly bruised bankers, will discover soon if the greatest flop in film history can "dip under the ton".

Cutthroat Island, starring Geena Davis and portraying 17th-century piracy, has lost more than $105 million (£69.5 million) so far, a figure that may shrink into double figures only if there is adequate interest in its video release this month.

Yesterday was the first anniversary of *Cutthroat Island's* "wrap party", a lavish affair in Thailand where the crew shot the last few frames of blue Andaman Sea. Neither the director, Renny Harlin, nor his star actress and wife, Geena, attended — an indication of the problems that have beset the film from the start.

When *Cutthroat Island* reached the American box office in December, its studio had sunk into bankruptcy. Even before the first clapperboard snapped shut, the film lost its male star, Michael Douglas, followed by the producer, chief cameraman and more than 20 of his disenchanted crew. Liam Neeson, Keanu Reeves and Ralph Fiennes all declined to replace Douglas, who reportedly felt that Davis's role was being given more wind than his own.

Cutthroat Island fell foul of European Community laws on horse transportation, and the animals had to be airlifted rather than shipped more cheaply to Malta. A photographic director fell out of a crane and broke his leg, sewage leaked into a tank where the actors were expected to swim, and Davis remained on set only after learning that a clever legal clause prevented her from leaping overboard. The final blow was a delay in release, which meant that it went up against numerous Christmas films.

When the film opened, American audiences cried with laughter and release was suspended after less than a month. Insiders were "stunned". Ten years ago a film that bombed in America had a second chance elsewhere. With the onset of global television newscasts, it is more difficult to offset a bad start.

On Douglas's orders the script was reworked by the best writers available, and the director had a proven track record with *Cliffhanger* and *Die Hard 2*.

However, the torrid events on location and a ballooning budget confirmed the theory among Hollywood executives that maritime movies are cursed. *Cutthroat Island* was in progress just as the media were full of sorry details about Kevin Costner's $200 million (£131 million) *Waterworld*.

For Costner, the bad publicity served an unexpected dividend: it created such public fascination that the supposedly unwatchable film recently recouped its costs.

Films that have lost the most money in their first two years on the market are *Cutthroat Island* (1995/6); *Ishtar* (1987); *Heaven's Gate* (1980); *Paint Your Wagon* (1969); *Cleopatra* (1963); *Mutiny on the Bounty* (1962); *Fantasia* (1940); *The Wizard of Oz* (1939); *Foolish Wives* (1922); *Intolerance* (1916).

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The collision between two competition surfboats on Queensland's Gold Coast which led to the death of Robert Gatenby, 15, drowned after being washed into the waves

Lifesavers mourn death in the surf

FROM REUTER IN SYDNEY

LIFESAVERS in Australia were in mourning yesterday after a carnival in cyclone surf left one drowned and scores injured, prompting criticism that organisers should have called off the event.

Robert Gatenby, 15, a junior surfboat crew member, disappeared into boiling surf on Sunday after a collision with another boat in 10ft waves off a beach on Queensland's Gold Coast.

A doctor who treated some of the 40 injured lifesavers, who included women, said that he had telephoned organisers to inform them of the dangerous head, neck and back injuries being suffered. "A number of the competitors we treated said they felt the conditions were unsafe," Barry Rigby said.

The event was postponed on Friday because of dangerous surf, but women competitors unsuccessfully sought the postponement of their event on Saturday. Reen Corbett, one of the injured, said: "Lifesaving is about saving lives, not about putting lives in jeopardy."

But the father of the dead lifesaver supported the decision not to call off the carnival. Jeffrey Gatenby, who watched his son drown, said: "He loved lifesaving and was keen to go out. It was his choice. What happened was one of the tragic hazards of lifesaving."

Scott Derwin, chief executive of Surf Life Saving Australia, said the organisation would hold an immediate investigation, but denied that the surf was unsafe. He also rejected suggestions that the carnival was not called off because of television commitments. "Our lifesavers are called upon in their voluntary capacity to undertake rescues in more difficult circumstances than what they were faced with yesterday," he said.

Peres pledges ballot on peace with Palestinians

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

SHIMON PERES, the Israeli Prime Minister, yesterday pledged for the first time to stage a referendum on any final peace agreement with the Palestinians, including the future status of the contested holy city of Jerusalem.

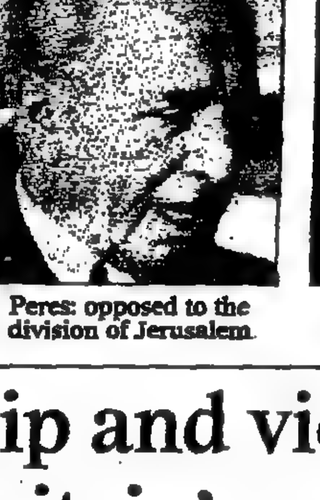
The surprise move came before the final status negotiations on Jerusalem, Israeli settlers and other contentious issues, due to begin with the Palestinian Authority within days of the Israeli general election next month.

Government officials said that Mr Peres's initiative, announced while the Prime Minister was flying to begin a historic trip to the Gulf states of Oman and Qatar was a shrewd move aimed at bringing over undecided voters afraid that a new Labour government led by Mr Peres would make too many concessions to the Palestinians.

"This step was not made known in advance, but it seems a very sensible way for Mr Peres to reassure voters that they will have a second chance on deciding on the terms of any deal with the Palestinians if they return him to power," a senior official said.

Previously Mr Peres had only announced that he would stand by the promise originally made by his assassinated predecessor, Yitzhak Rabin, to hold a national referendum before the terms of any peace treaty with Syria involving the return of the occupied Golan Heights were finally approved.

Mr Peres, who is once again ahead of his right-wing rival Binyamin Netanyahu in the opinion polls after his standing was hit by the recent spate of Islamic suicide bombs, said:



Peres: opposed to the division of Jerusalem

Netanyahu: overtaken in opinion polls by Peres

"I will ask the [governing Labour] party for a mandate to handle negotiations on the final status with the Palestinians and to inform them that we will hold a referendum. When you handle negotiations such as these you want to bring results that will have a majority. That is the biggest limitation that exists."

The new referendum pledge was seen by Labour campaign aides as a firm bid by Mr Peres to wrongfoot Mr Netanyahu's Likud bloc, which launched its campaign with claims that Mr Peres was prepared to hand back annexed east Jerusalem to the Palestinians as part of the final status deal. Mr Peres has stated repeatedly his opposition to the future division of the holy city being demanded by the Palestinians, who like the Israelis claim it as their capital.

Palestinian officials are concerned that the referendum could lessen their chances of securing acceptable concessions from Israel about a permanent solution to the problem. They are already angry at the continued closure of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip after the suicide attacks, although Israel announced a slight easing of its five-week blockade of the territories yesterday, saying 3,000 Palestinian workers would soon be allowed to return to their jobs in the Jewish state. Israelis are divided over the "land for peace" formula, with a majority believed to be against any handover of east Jerusalem, territory conquered from Jordan in the 1967 war.

Yesterday, as Mr Peres was presenting his scheme, Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian Authority President, publicised a letter to the Cairo-based Arab League accusing Israel of "declaring war" by virtue of its recent policies, including the continuing closure of the occupied territories, collective punishments and refusal to withdraw troops from Hebron as agreed last week.

☐ Cairo: The leader of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad yesterday vowed that the "human bomb" attacks on Israel would never stop until the last Jews had left the lands of Palestine.

"The Jews will not enjoy safety until they return to the countries in which they lived before they raped our Palestine." Ramadan Abdullah Shallah told the Arab weekly *al-Wasat*. (AFP)

Mother Teresa: fall

Mother Teresa breaks her collar bone

Delhi: Mother Teresa, 85, was "stable" in hospital last night after falling and breaking her collar bone (Christopher Thomas writes).

She was driven through the chaotic Calcutta traffic from her Missionaries of Charity headquarters to the Woodlands Clinic, one of the city's best hospitals, after the accident. A spokesman said there was "no cause for concern".

She was to have received a £7 million shipment of pharmaceuticals from Heart to Heart International, an American-based charity, yesterday.

Americans alerted to Bahrain risks

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

THE United States Embassy in Bahrain has issued a new security alert to all its 3,500 citizens on the island in the face of growing unrest. A 15-month series of pro-democracy riots led last month to the first execution in the strategic Gulf state for two decades.

"In light of a recent increase of civil disturbances in Bahrain, including bomb attacks against hotels and restaurants frequented by foreigners, the US Embassy believes the risk to public safety has increased," callers to its security hotline are being warned.

Security concerns have also been growing recently among the estimated 5,000 British expatriates in Bahrain.

At the weekend more arrests were reported in the impoverished Shia Muslim villages that ring the capital, Manama. The Shia uprising against the ruling al-Khalifa family, which belongs to the Sunni Muslim minority, has taken on wider significance because Bahrain is the headquarters of the US Fifth Fleet and a key regional financial centre. At least nine bombs have exploded in different areas since July, including three planted at luxury hotels and two at restaurants frequented by foreigners. Strict security measures are in force at all places of entertainment and many foreigners have moved from isolated properties near the Shia villages and towns, where walls are daubed with anti-government slogans.

The protesters are demanding the return of the local parliament, dissolved by the al-Khalifas in 1975, the release of hundreds of prisoners arrested in a recent clampdown, and an increase in job opportunities. Clashes between villagers and security forces have become an almost nightly occurrence.

In recommending that Americans in Bahrain exercise "strong caution", the embassy says they should avoid travel to all villages, particularly Sitra and Jidhafs. Seven Bangladeshi workers died this month in a fire-bomb attack at a Sitra restaurant.

Korean coup 'was justified'

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN SEOUL

ROH TAE WOO, the former President of South Korea, denied yesterday that politically motivated army generals imposed martial law to propel Chun Doo Hwan into power 16 years ago.

Standing trial with Mr Chun on treason and mutiny charges, Mr Roh said that, without martial law, student protests would have led to anarchy and North Korea might have attacked. "We believed that the Government had limited power to settle the turmoil, so we thought that an extension of martial law was required," Mr Roh said.

Mr Chun and Mr Roh, then major-generals, swept into a power vacuum left by the assassination of the dictator Park Chung Hee in 1979. Park's sudden demise led to demands for democracy.

The two former Presidents are standing trial as part of President Kim Young Sam's efforts to deal with coups and corruption in the past.

Hardship and violence stalk Britain's envoys

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

LAST year there were 145 incidents of serious violence against Foreign Office staff and their families, including the fatal shooting of a diplomat in Nairobi. Increasingly, according to the head of the diplomatic service, diplomats are having to learn to live with violence.

About 100 posts abroad are already classified as hardship posts, Sir John Coles, the Permanent Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office, will tell a conference today. As well as violence, lack of medical facilities can cause real problems, and in some countries diplomats have to travel with complete medical kits, including plasma, syringes and needles as well as dressings and splints.

One such hardship post is the embassy in Kigali, where a woman has just been appointed as Britain's first resident Ambassador to Rwanda. Women also serve in difficult posts in Tashkent, Beirut and Minsk, where Jessica Pearce has been appointed to Belorussia at the age of 38.

But they are part of only a small minority of women who have made it to the top, as Sir John freely admits. Women now account for 57 per cent of the yearly intake, but head only eight missions overseas.

"The dearth of women in the senior ranks today reflects attitudes and recruitment practices of 20 or 30 years ago," he will tell a conference on the future of diplomacy.

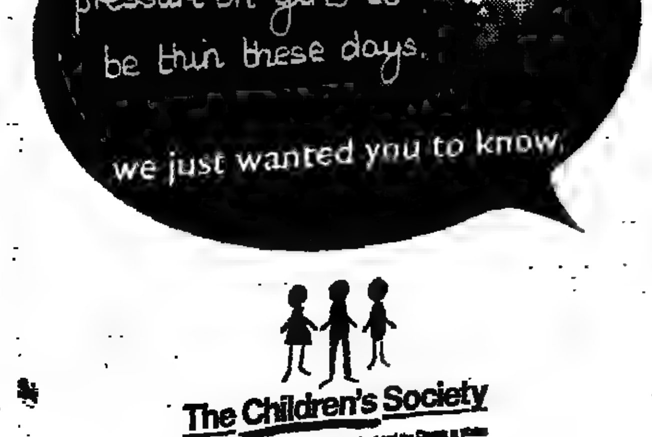
In future women diplomats will receive time off after childbirth, will be able to vary their working hours, have the option of working part-time and may be able to hire home helps or leave babies at embassy or Foreign Office creches.

Until 1972, any woman diplomat was obliged to resign if she married; even now, married women often leave the service at childbirth or if their husbands cannot join them in posts overseas.

Sir John also speaks of the difficulty recruiting ethnic minority staff, a point made in the recent Foreign Office report. At present they make up only 3 per cent of staff. "We are determined to change that," he said. "I want our service to be more representative of Britain's ethnic make-up. We are trying hard to encourage members of the ethnic minorities to apply. These days you won't only find the diplomatic service advertised in *The Independent* and *The Guardian* but also in *The Asian Times*, *the Caribbean Times* and the *Chinese Times*."

He says commercial work is now the Foreign Office's top priority; more staff abroad are engaged in this than in any other activity, and their numbers have risen by 100 over the past two years. A report to be published by the National Audit Office tomorrow will show that for every £1 spent on trade promotion in South-East Asia, Britain stimulated £80 of exports.

He also gives examples of small successes in breaking into new markets. British diplomats recently helped clinch the sale of £10,000 of bouncy castles to Egypt, £66,000 of whisky to Macedonia and £70,000 of dental floss and toothbrushes to Brazil.



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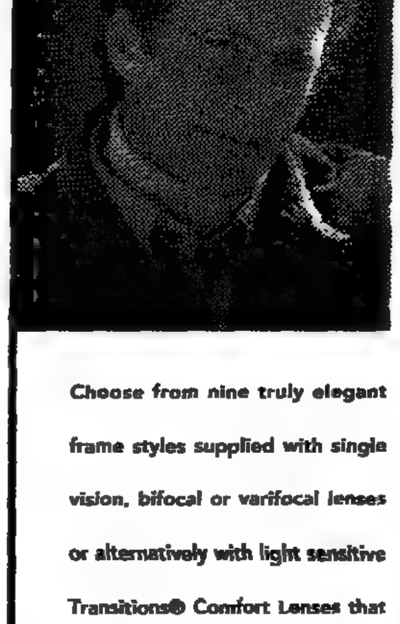

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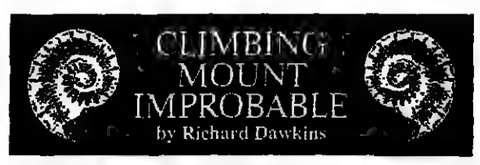
The final part of our exclusive serialisation of Richard Dawkins's book

Can nature perform miracles?



THE EVOLUTION OF SIGHT

Even Darwin expressed doubts that natural selection could produce an eye

An eye is made of a large number of parts arranged in a very special way. The number of possible ways in which those parts could have been arranged comes to a stupefyingly large number.

Moreover, of all the trillions of possible arrangements of the parts of an eye, only a tiny minority would see. Darwin knew this. "To suppose that the eye," he wrote, "could have been formed by natural selection seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest possible degree."

Darwin, however, saw his doubts as a challenge to go on thinking, not a welcome excuse to give up. At the simplest level, we find eyes that scarcely deserve to be recognised as eyes at all. Some single-celled organisms, some jellyfish, starfish, leeches and various other kinds of worms are incapable of forming an image, or even of telling the direction from which light comes. All that they can sense (dimly) is the presence of (bright) light, somewhere in the vicinity.

The next progression is the evolution of the living equivalent of the photocell, a cell specialised for capturing the photons of light with a pigment, and translating their impact into nerve impulses. The more layers of pigment you have, the greater the chance of catching any one photon. Advanced eyes like ours have millions of photocells densely packed like pile in a carpet, and each one of them is set up to capture as many photons as possible.

Photocells on their own just tell an animal whether there is light or not. The next step of improvement must have been the acquisition of some rudimentary sensitivity to direction of light and direction of movement of, say, a menacing shadow. The minimal way of achieving this is to back the photocells with a dark screen on one side only. A transparent photocell without a dark screen receives light from all directions and cannot tell where the light is coming from. An animal with only one photocell in its head can steer towards, or away from, light, provided the photocell is backed by a screen.

A better way is to have more than one photocell pointing in different directions, each one backed by a dark screen. Then by comparing the rates of photon rain on the two cells you can make inferences about direction of light. If you have a whole carpet of photocells, a better way is to bend the carpet, with its backing screen, into a curve so that the photocells on different parts of the curve are pointing in systematically different directions. A convex curve can give rise, eventually, to the sort of "compound eye" that insects have. A concave curve is a cup and it gives rise to the other main kind of eye, the camera eye like our own.

A cup eye on its own is far from capable of forming what we humans, with our excellent eyes, would recognise as a proper image. Why would an unaided carpet of photocells, or a shallow cup, not see an image of, say, a dolphin, even when the dolphin is conspicuously displayed in front of it?

> 'Evolution of a lens could take just half a million years'

The light rays giving the image of the dolphin are swamped by any number of rays going in every other direction at the same time. Every bit of the dolphin sends a ray to every point on the retina. And not just every bit of the dolphin, but every bit of the background and of everything else in the scene. You can think of the result as an infinite number of dolphin images, in every possible position on the surface of the cup and every possible way up and way round. The eye is seeing too much: an infinity of dolphins instead of only one. The obvious solution is to subtract: cut out every dolphin image except one.

One way is to deepen and enclose the cup until the aperture has narrowed to a pinhole. Now the vast majority of rays are prevented from entering the cup. The minority that remain are just rays that form a small number of similar images — upside down — of the dolphin. If the pinhole becomes extremely small, the blurring disappears and a single, sharp picture of the dolphin remains.

A first thought suggests that the pinhole ought to work rather well, provided you make it small enough. But two snags arise. One is diffraction. It is a blurring problem that results from the fact that light behaves like waves, which can interfere with each other. This blurring gets worse when the pinhole is very small. The other snag is that when the pinhole is small enough to make a sharp image, it necessarily follows that so little light gets through the hole that you can see the object well only if it is illuminated by an almost unattainably bright light. With the pinhole design you can have a sharpish but dark image, or a brightish but fuzzy one. You cannot have both. Fortunately, there is a way to achieve a bright and yet simultaneously sharp image.

First, think of the problem computationally. Imagine that we broaden the pinhole out to let in a nice lot of light. But instead of leaving it as a gaping hole, we insert a "magic window", a masterpiece of electronic wizardry embedded in glass and connected to a computer. The property of this computer-controlled window is the following. Light rays, instead of passing straight through the glass, are bent to converge on a corresponding point on the retina. The result of the magic window is that a perfect image of the dolphin appears on the retina. It's all very well to conjure up a "magic window", but where is this wonderful computer to come from, if not from a complicated miracle? Is this where we meet our Waterloo?

Remarkably, the answer is no. The computer is just an imaginary creation to emphasise the apparent complexity of the task if you look at it in one way. But if you approach the problem in another way the solution turns out to be ludicrously easy. There is a device of preposterous simplicity which happens to have exactly the properties of our magic window, but no electronic wizardry, no complication at all. That device is the lens. You don't need a computer. The apparently complicated calculations of millions of ray angles are taken care of by a curved blob of transparent material.

It is not difficult for rudimentary lens-like objects to come into existence spontaneously. Any old lump of half-way transparent jelly need only assume a curved shape (there are all sorts of reasons why it might) and it will immediately confer at least a slight improvement on a simple cup or pinhole. Lenses might have evolved in the first place, from a vitreous mass that filled the whole eye.

The principle of how it might have happened, and the speed with which it might have been accomplished, has been beautifully demonstrated in a computer model. A pair of Swedish biologists called Dan Nilsson and Susanne Pelger have shown that there is a smooth trajectory of improvement from a flat non-eye to a good fish eye. They were also able to use their model to estimate the time it would take to evolve an eye from nothing. Their estimate was actually astoundingly short. It turned out that it would take only about 364,000 generations to evolve a good fish eye with a lens.

How long is 364,000 generations in years? That depends on the generation time, of course. The animals we are talking about would be small marine animals like worms, molluscs and small fish. For them, a generation typically takes one year or less.

So Nilsson and Pelger's conclusion is that the evolution of the lens eye could have been accomplished in less than half a million years. And that is a very, very short time indeed, by geological standards.

● *From* Climbing Mount Improbable *by Richard Dawkins, published by Viking on April 25, price £20.*

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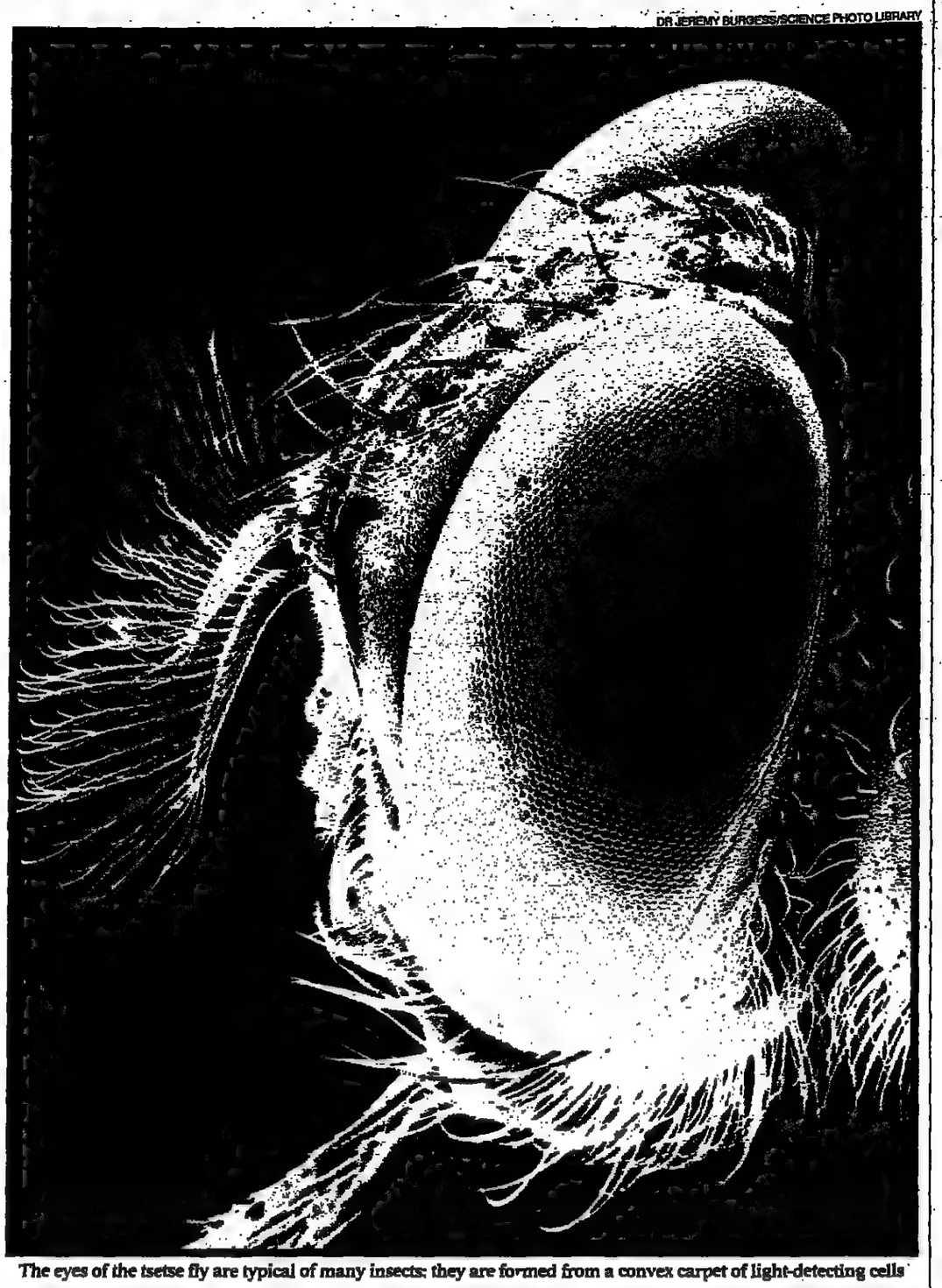

The eyes of the tsetse fly are typical of many insects: they are formed from a convex carpet of light-detecting cells

Ghostly tales of old age

MY FIRST house in Norfolk was said to be one of the most haunted in the county. Doors opening and shutting, footsteps, the noise of furniture being dragged across rooms became commonplace.

My family never saw anything untoward, but later an elderly neighbour said that after we left he had seen an old woman without her lower legs walking in the paddock by the house.

Another manifestation of the haunting? Or could my informant be suffering from the first symptoms of Lewy Body dementia? Lewy Body dementia affects 35,000 people in the UK. Visual hallucinations are common: patients are apt to see headless people, others cut off at the waist or without legs, or disembodied limbs. The correct diagnosis is important since the standard treatment for hallucinations, a neuroleptic drug, worsens the condition.

Patients with Lewy Body dementia are not the only older people to be inappropriately treated with powerful neuroleptics. A recent report in the *British Medical Journal* of a survey in Glasgow showed 24 per cent of patients admitted to nursing homes for the elderly were receiving neuroleptic drugs, but in eight out of ten the reasons for their prescription failed to satisfy the guidelines for their use. The side effects — increased confusion, bizarre facial grimacing, dizziness and unsteadiness — make these drugs unsuitable for patients suffering from no more than the insomnia, restlessness and fetchiness of age.

By using scanning procedures, Dr Kim Jobst at the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford has demonstrated that it is possible to differentiate between the various causes of dementia and to diagnose Alzheimer's disease which affects the medial temporal lobe of the brain, and Lewy Body dementia, which affects the cortex. Dr Alastair Macdonald, a consultant psychogeriatrician at Guy's and Hither Green hospitals in London, says that clinically Lewy Body dementia has four characteristics: many patients had symptoms similar to Parkinson's disease; the level of dementia fluctuated; most of the neuroleptic drugs made them worse; and half had hallucinations.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

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THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM

Why we exist

Richard Dawkins

RICHARD DAWKINS, the controversial Oxford biologist, will argue at a *Times*/Dillons forum that Darwin has the answers to all nature's complexities.

The forum, to be held on Thursday, April 25, marks the publication of Professor Dawkins's latest book, *Climbing Mount Improbable* (Viking, £20). He will discuss the difference between accident and design in nature and will show how DNA has progressed through geological time to create our rich variety of plant and animal life.

Chaired by Sir John Maddox, the former editor of *Nature*, the forum will be held at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets at £10 (concessions £7.50), which include £3 off the price of Professor Dawkins's book, are available by phoning 0171-915 6613, by faxing the coupon below on 0171-915 6611, or by sending the coupon and your remittance to Dillons, 82 Gower Street, WC1E 6EQ, where tickets can also be bought.

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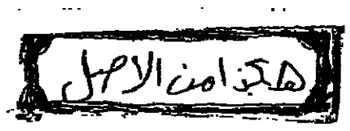


Giles Coren surfs through *Debrett's People of Today* on CD-Rom and begins to get the measure of the meritocracy

No Darrens in the Athenaeum

When *Debrett's People of Today* was published for the first time, in 1988, it was billed as the antidote to *Who's Who*, a pantheon to which achievement and merit would ensure entry, rather than birth and breeding. It was to be populist, democratic and without prejudice, a symbol of the classless society with which it all but shared a birthday.

Yet in the 1996 edition, there are 43 people called Piers.

I know this not because I have counted them, nor because I have 43 friends called Piers who are all terribly important. I know it because the 1996 edition has been published on CD-Rom. It is surely greatest democratic statement to date. The names of the 34,000 leading lights of our meritocracy are now available for scrutiny by the bug-eyed nerds who prefer their reference libraries interactive. Simply fork out two hundred quid for your plastic disc, load it into the relevant hardware, and take your pick from the menu.

In the old days, when you wanted to know how many professional nutritionists were members of the Beefsteak Club, you had to wade through 2,000 pages and nearly five million words. Now you can type in *nutritionist* and *Beefsteak*, click your mouse, and find out in less than a second that there are, in fact, none.

This is a brave move by the 200-year-old publishers, because it allows us to examine their claims of common relevance more closely than ever before. There are, for example, 43 people called St John (remember Rowan Atkinson's problem with the poshest of names in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*?). But there are only 29 Garys and five Darrens.

And can it be representative that 1,582 entries list cricket as a recreation, but only 542 mention football? Even more suspiciously there are as many devotees of real tennis as there are of snooker.

And then there are the clubs. Never before have these most pukka of establishments had their exclusiveness rendered so open to examination. The club best represented in the list of high achievers is the Athenaeum, with 870 members on the disc. Then comes the Garrick (547), the Army and Navy (542), Brooks's (456), the Reform (443), White's (437), the Oxford & Cambridge (428), and Boodle's (360).

The greatest iniquity to come to light, though, relates to the MCC. I found 1,160 members in the memory, of whom only 455 listed cricket as an interest. I should like to know, on behalf of all those lovers of the game who have languished on the waiting-list for 15 years, just what those other 705 members are interested in.

Fiona Pitt-Kethley and Michèle Roberts share a hobby

Not women, certainly. And while the MCC excludes them altogether, they do not fare much better in *Debrett's*, where 3,043 women are positively swamped by the 30,873 men.

Other strongholds of the patriarchy also remain unbreached. The treacherous cursor unearthed 1,945 Etonians (more than the number of graduates from Oxford or Cambridge), 571 Harrovians and 555 Wykehamists. One third of those called St John or Piers, as it happens, were Etonians, and there are more people called Hugo (25) than attended Trent Polytechnic (17).

There are problems with the disc as a research tool, however: a judge who claimed to have attended "Cambrdige University" and a couple of "Cambrige" alumni escaped my Oxbridge search. Such errors make none of the discoveries watertight. Can it be true that only two *Debrett's* names support Queens Park Rangers? The addition of the composer Michael Nyman — who is in *Who's Who* — could make that figure up to three, but still too few to mess with the 22 Manchester United supporters.

Only two names give sex as a recreation, and both are female writers: the poet Fiona Pitt-Kethley and the novelist Michèle Roberts. Four people like pigs, including the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie. Fourteen go for fast cars, of whom two are women. And the democratic myth is shattered again by a mere 25 people professing a love of beer, while 693 are wine enthusiasts.

The most popular recreations seem to be gardening and walking, but if you are setting up a poker school try inviting the sculptor Nicola Hicks and the *Sun* TV critic Garry Bushell. Thirty enjoyed "hunting, shooting and fishing", but when I searched for "rap music" the computer, trying to be helpful, asked: "Raphaelite?"

The triumph of this CD-Rom is the illusion it creates that you are putting society under close digital scrutiny, without stirring from a plastic swivel chair or engaging a brain cell. But the excitement of searching for pig-loving oenophiles called Jemima soon fades, and you know the exercise is bogus. Something is rotten. You look from the names in the book, to the publisher, to the logic of your own browsing, and already it is impossible to say who is taking whom for a ride.

How Jilly orchestrated her novel

The Royal Scottish National Orchestra tell Julia Llewellyn Smith about being in a Jilly Cooper book

Jilly Cooper: novel research

Jilly Cooper endeared herself to the Royal Scottish National Orchestra when a bottle of duty-free brandy smashed in her suitcase at Barcelona airport. "There was a trail of alcohol behind her and certain members of the orchestra were down on all fours virtually licking it up," recalls John Logan, a horn player. "It got all over her knickers, so she just took them out of her suitcase and started wringing them out," adds Miranda Phythian-Adams, a cellist.

It was 1992 and Cooper was spending a week touring Spain with the RSNO to research her latest blockbuster, *Appassionata*, which she describes as her "sex and Chopin novel".

Last year she joined the RSNO again for a tour of Switzerland. She adored all 86 players so much that she dedicated the book to them, "because they make great music and I love them all".

The feeling is mutual. Few of the orchestra had ever read a Cooper novel ("they're filth," says the principal timpanist, Martin Gibson), but they were immediately won over by the author's gap-toothed grin and self-effacing manner. Recently, they even gave up their day off to be in a photo-shoot to promote the book, something unheard of in the musical world, where spare time is jealously guarded.

"She was so nice to us all. She would say, 'That's lovely, absolutely lovely' or 'You're so sweet, you were the sweetest thing on stage that night'," trills Ms Phythian-Adams.

"I think she's smashing," Mr Gibson says. "She must be a multimillionairess but she's not blasé about dosh. She's just a normal person." "She's good fun, very sensitive and sincere," says Lance Green, principal trombonist.

Yet, if the disclaimer in *Appassionata*'s six pages of acknowledgements is to be believed, the impossibly beautiful, endlessly witty and dazzlingly high-spirited musicians who populate the pages of the novel bear no resemblance to the members of the RSNO. "The high jinks and bad behaviour in the book are totally invented and I would stress that *Appassionata* is a work of fiction," Cooper writes. "Any resemblance to any living person or organisation is purely coincidental."

First impressions of the orchestra as it rehearses on the stage of the Usher Hall in Edinburgh seem to bear Cooper out. In *Appassionata* the musicians would be burping, farting, giggling and sending paper darts to the people they fancied, asking them out on dates. They would be making life hell for the female conductor, Claire Gibault, by making as much noise as possible and ignoring her directions.

In reality, the orchestra is diligently rehearsing Mozart's Piano Concerto, with scarcely a whisper to each other between movements.

"Jilly wanted to find this air of glamour and romance, but it was a bit rougher than she anticipated," explains Mr Green. "She was looking for a lot more scandal than she found."

"What the punters see are the guys in white ties and tails and the girls wearing gowns, and it looks glamorous," says Mr Gibson. "But it's pretty grotty backstage."

In rehearsals and on tour, the musicians were aware they were being constantly scrutinised. "She wrote everything down in her notebook, two words to the page," says Mr Logan. "She was watching your body language all the time," Mr Green reveals. "My wife, who is the associate leader of the orchestra, says she is one of the best listeners she has ever met."

"She was very interested in the relationships between every colleague on and off stage," says David McClenaghan, principal horn. "On tour you are living very close to everyone for up to three weeks and if you don't get on with them it can be quite difficult. We gave her lots of gossip but it was mainly about other people in other orchestras, because you're not going to drop your own friends in it."

She wants everybody to be really happy," says Ursula Heidecker, second violin. "The question she asked everybody was 'Are you in love?' "

Cooper was especially interested in Helen Brew, second flute, who is engaged to another member of the orchestra: "She wanted me to have joined the orchestra, to have looked across it and have fallen in love. Well, life isn't like that, for me at any rate."

MIKE WILKINSON

Rehearsals at the Usher Hall in Edinburgh for the Royal Scottish National Orchestra. "She was looking for a lot more scandal than she found"

None of the musicians has read the book and they are too poor to attend the launch next week at the Festival Hall. "I'm not sure we'd recognise ourselves in the book anyway," Mr Green says. "I think what Jilly has done is to take one person's character and put it on to another instrument."

"I'm meant to be the randy one," pipes up Stephen West, principal *cor anglais*. "Bald but sexily so."

At the centre of speculation is Mr McClenaghan, the model for Viking O'Neill, Cooper's golden-haired Irish protagonist, whose description — "Hero of the orchestra because of his great glamour, glorious sound and rebellious attitude" — causes Mr McClenaghan's colleagues to fall about laughing.

"I don't know why her hero plays the French horn," says Mr McClenaghan, who has brown hair, a round face and is wearing a brown leather jacket. "I suppose it's probably the best position to be in the orchestra. It gets all the good, heroic, romantic tunes, you can hear it above everything else and she liked the sound."

Romance aside, Cooper was on a quest for accuracy. "She wanted to find out things about the instruments, so it sounded like she knew all about it," says Mr Logan. "She wanted to know if there was time during a certain piece of music for an off-stage trumpet player to go away, have sex and be back before he was needed again."

> 'Jilly would ask everyone whether they were in love'

"She wanted to know all about the breathing techniques for the *cor anglais*," says Mr West. The orchestra's reply was unprintable in a family newspaper, but ensured itself a place in *Appassionata*.

The RSNO, it transpires, may not be as glamorous as Cooper's fictional equivalent, but it is every bit as raucous and vulgar. "Oh yes, we have lots of in-house jokes about farting," confirms Mr Green. "And while we would never give a conductor a hard time, other orchestras do."

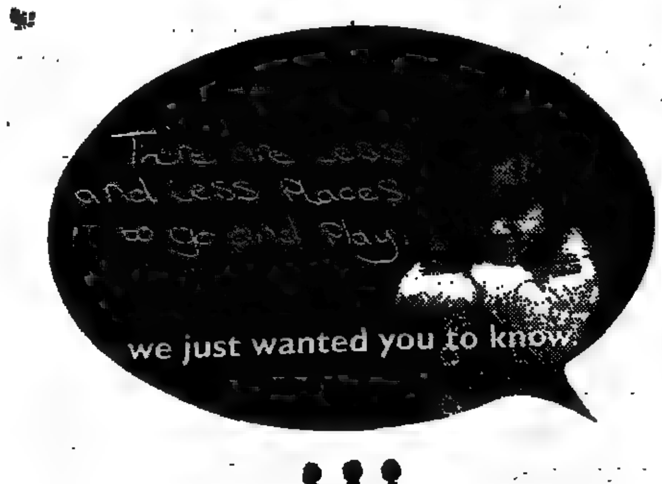
"Female conductors have it especially bad," says Ms Phythian-Adams. "Their voices don't carry as well so they don't tend to be as authoritative as the men, and usually there is big trouble. We have been surprisingly well behaved today with Ms Gibault, probably because we knew we were being watched. People have kept very quiet, when they could have made a lot of noise."

And what of the touring, which Cooper describes as "bonking bonanzas ... [where] players started stepping round each other, setting up liaisons weeks before"? "That's not true," Ms Heidecker insists.

Bonking aside, however, the musicians agree that Cooper has got the details spot on, such as the fact that the musicians divide themselves between two coaches: Pond Life, for the abstainers who want to steer clear of the revelry, and Moulin Rouge for the smokers and rabble-rousers.

"Then you have the Breakfast Bandits," says Mr Logan. These creatures, whom Cooper immortalises, are so concerned about money that they decant their breakfast buffets (the only meal provided) into plastic bags and live off that for the rest of the day. "There are some people who bring two weeks' supply of sandwiches with them. When they get home they've saved up enough lunch and dinner allowances to buy a fridge-freezer," Mr Logan explains. Moulin Rouge stalwarts regard anyone who makes it to breakfast as not being one of the lads.

Whatever the truth of Cooper's portrayal, musicians will never be seen in the same light again. And the RSNO is delighted. "We have this undeserved high-class image, and the book brings it down to your everyday punter," says Mr Gibson. "It's going to be fantastic publicity," sighs Mr McClenaghan. "I just hope we star in the television series."



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In praise of useless knowledge

The apparent inefficiency of the Oxbridge tutorial system is its true glory, says **Roger Scruton**

The Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University, Dr Peter North, has appointed a commission of inquiry into the university's future, believing, as modern people tend to believe, that an institution which has been around for centuries must stand in urgent need of change. It is time to shake off the old image of dreaming spires and secluded cloisters, to shut up the dusty folios and to confine the interminable disputes between Aeschylus and Euripides, Racine and Shakespeare, empiricism and idealism, Tweedledum and Tweedledee to private societies of crusty scholars. The task of the university is not to foster those pursuits which madmen can perfectly well engage in unaided, but to rationalise its resources in the interests of the only criterion whereby a university can be measured — which is the quantity and quality of its research.

To this end Dr North has employed a firm of management consultants and, as might have been predicted, the consultants, Coopers & Lybrand, have come up with a fairly negative assessment of the way things are run. All those colleges, duplicating resources, fussing over dead controversies, worrying about their domestic arrangements, wasting precious money on their separate libraries, their separate kitchens, their separate domestic lives, and their separate domestic quarrels — surely the whole lot should be poured into a single cauldron, brought to intellectual boiling point, and reduced to the solid matter of research.

If you were worried about your family and employed a firm of management consultants to tell you how it might be organised, you should not be surprised to discover that the whole thing is grossly inefficient, that it would be best to jettison a child here, an aunt or a grandfather there, and to rent out a few of the bedrooms. You should expect to learn that you had got off on the wrong foot by relying on sexual reproduction, and that matters were not improved by the love between husband and wife which had closed your minds to more fruitful partnerships.

Your productivity could probably have doubled without those lingering holidays, and the absurd idea of teaching your children to play the piano, to ride ponies, and to read aloud from the classics — when they could have been quietly and painlessly out of the way in front of a television — is the real reason why you have fallen below the norm set by your forward-looking neighbours.

It is irrational to reform an institution in defiance of its inner nature, just as it would be irrational to reform a family in order to make it into an efficient workplace. The pre-eminence of Oxford and Cambridge over all other universities is not due to their record in "research" — something which only American universities have regarded as their ruling purpose. It is due to the fact that they are exemplars of the intellectual life — the life led for the sake of thought, in a world that increasingly despises it.

This life is founded on the tutorial, that unique Oxbridge institution, which does not impart information so much as teach students to organise their inner lives, so that their thought, criticism and judgment take precedence over impulse. And the ethos of the tutorial permeates the domestic arrangements of the colleges, in which scholars live side by side with their pupils, on terms which have no equivalent in the solipsistic world outside.

Of course it is not efficient — that is to say, it is not immediately efficient when judged by the criterion of research. Nor is it adapted to the "vocational" curriculum. It strongly favours useless subjects such as Greek, Latin, philosophy, pure mathematics and English. In a market economy, the collegiate university seems a gross waste of resources. But thank God for that: thank God that in a world of short-term efficiency, there remain these few institutions devoted to the glorious idea of waste. For as surely as short-term efficiency abhors waste, long-term efficiency requires it.

> Thank God for institutions devoted to the idea of waste

The real value of a university lies not in research but in scholarship — which may look like research to those who have no familiarity with it, but which involves the whole person, invades and orders the mind, the soul and the emotions of those who engage in it, and is inseparable from teaching. Without scholarship, the university cannot fulfil its purpose, which is to perpetuate knowledge *for its own sake and without regard to its utility.*

Knowledge that seems useless may not remain so forever. Who could have foreseen that the study of ancient history was exactly what our ancestors required when called upon to administer the Empire which we acquired in a fit of absentmindedness? Who could have foreseen that the abstruse investigations of Boole, Cantor and Frege would one day produce the computer revolution? But this kind of usefulness is the unintended by-product of a study whose sole and sufficient purpose is itself.

It is through the pursuit of useless knowledge that a university justifies its claim to be an irreplaceable public good. And it is the redundant scholar, surrounded by his books and visited by students, who is the finest symbol of this knowledge, and the one most likely to implant the love of it in minds young enough and unspoilt enough to see its point.

Britain turns flabby

When seen from sinewy Israel, our troubles appear trivial and absurd

Libby Purves

It has been a lucky week to be out of Britain, out of Europe, with most of the Negev desert between me and the nearest cow. I write from the southernmost tip of Israel, a short strip of gritty sand at the top of the right-hand horn of the Red Sea, known here as the Gulf of Eilat, and to the neighbours three miles over the border as the Gulf of Aqaba. I should admit that I am off duty and only here to satisfy a diving son's lust for coral; however, it has been surprisingly interesting to watch the European opera from half a world away. Seen through the wrong end of a telescope, tiny but clear, the whole sad shambles takes on new resonances.

Most of them are rather embarrassing. Leaving the airport and stepping out into a desert landscape of hot orange mountains and dusty Jeeps, we were asked our first question (the first, that is apart from the three dozen official variations on "Why are you here?" and "Did you let any Palestinians help with your packing?"). It came from the bus driver, lounging in his cab against an Old Testament backdrop. "You come from Anglia?" he said. "Hey, you got mad beef, OK?"

Indeed, we said meekly. We did seem to have mad beef, although actually, the disease is declining. "It kill: a lot of people?" He clearly drew great amusement from already knowing the reply. "Er — only ten actually. And only perhaps." "So, what you gonna do, in Anglia?" In these desert bus-stop political discussions one always ends up having to speak for one's Government. Sulkily we confessed that we haven't made our minds up.

The driver, a keen newspaper reader, to judge by the heap of Hebrew newsprint under the seat, continued inexorably: "You gonna kill all the beef? Not just the sick beefs, then?" Well, I said, consumer confidence . . . but suddenly a topical Passover theme occurred to him. He consulted his colleague for translation and said: "Like the plagues of Egypt!" We gave that appeasing, self-deprecating British laugh. In the midst of a desert, dotted at unimaginably hot, dry distances by determined kibbutzim dedicated to Ben-Gurion's dream of making it bloom, the irony of such a self-inflicted plague was not subtle. We were grateful when the bus began to fill with American voices discussing dive sites.

All week, faint but insistent, the BSE affair echoed around us. "Good beef, not poison!" said the Arab waiter in the fast-food bar. European chatter in the tourist queues said: "Schrecklich, BSE!" and "Mais c'est affreux, ils ont empoisonné l'Europe!" A pair of well-spoken English voices on the bus chuntered about their personal tragedy of having shared a steak and kidney pie in 1992. "One just doesn't feel safe any more," said a woman fretfully.

Ten feet from her, a group of Israeli boys and girls in military service strolled past. Uzis on their shoulders. Their compatriots have died within the last month from Hamas bombs; their Prime Minister was shot dead by a fellow Israeli. They grew up knowing that 5km along the beach one way lies Jordan (peace treaty signed 1994) and even closer the other way is Egypt (1989). Their childhoods were spent technically at war with every neighbouring state; their adolescence was tightened and disciplined by universal military service into that prickly, difficult, Sabra temperament which stamps arrogant confidence and unsmiling readiness for aggression onto the most innately gentle and sociable of young Israelis (and which, incidentally, can make everyday transactions in their country rather wearing for the diffident British visitor). A worry about beef? The young soldiers seemed to be saying in every line of their body: "Kill ten million head of cattle because ten people might have died? Do this for 'consumer confidence' rather than for a proven, vital reason? Pull the other one!"

Something of the same spirit shows in the leaders in *The Jerusalem Post*. "World waits for Britain to contain mad cow panic!" it says impatiently, and extends its censure to "an outbreak of hysteria across the entire European Union that is scarcely credible". Or, in other words, what a kerfuffle about nothing much. Given that the rest of *The Jerusalem Post* is as usual devoted largely to the pressing matter of keeping their nation in existence, this is not surprising. Nor is the prevailing tone of wonderment among older Israelis gathering for the Passover holiday when they asked us, around the snorkel-hire kiosk, to explain the role of the EU in the said kerfuffle.

When you have struggled to maintain your country's existence for 50 years, and inherit an ancient, well-polished tradition of fighting for the Promised Land, the idea of handing over one scrap of authority to anybody else is frankly laughable. When your one Red Sea outlet is less than 10km long, so that the dolphin reserve has to be bang next to the commercial car dock and Defence Ministry barbed wire; when your parasailing boats, towing their shrieking tourists aloft behind them like great white-legged kites, have to turn back carefully so as not to violate Jordanian airspace by accident, you do not easily grasp the idea of common authority and councils of ministers. You solve your own problems.

Even as a tourist, it is easy to become dangerously empathetic with a foreign country, and to look at the familiar face of your own land as if it were a stranger's. Especially as all week a perilous sense has been growing on me that I no longer belong to a lion-like little country that famously stood alone, but to a flabby and timid and panicking one. Blame what you like: Americanisation, religious decline, welfare, insufficient cold baths; but the real culprit, alas, is nothing more than 50 years of peace. It is a dismaying thought that something so good, so cherished, has also created the difference between the way we scuttle around worrying and "not feeling safe" because we might get a rare disease, while the young Israelis swagger so proudly, believe in their achievements and hold a visible conviction that they can do anything and survive anything and kick hell out of anybody who tries to stop them (another Palestinian round-up last week, I notice). They feel — well, Chosen. I suppose we felt that way once.

The brutalities of which this makes Israel capable would make me hesitate to set it up as a model; but it would be nice to bring home a small homoeopathic dose of this angry, fearless *esprit de corps* — and especially of energetic optimism. Out in the harsh desert, watching a performance of the Book of Genesis in the rather improbable setting of an ostrich farm, I fell into another conversation. Again, after a brief discussion of ostriches, the cattle question came up. "Kill them all? Phew!" said the Israeli. "Then you have to start over again. Hard work." His tone held no implication that it was ruinous or impossible. His race, his nation, is expert at starting over again. It is not a thing you fuss about: unless you have had for 50 years such a soft and prosperous world around you that you have stopped knowing how unusual in the world is such comfort.

It was a relief to meet more eternal forms of comfort, not dependent on the dangerous balance between the joys of peace and its debilitating effect. Outside the rackety shopping precinct the other night, two large loudspeakers were belting out cheerful religious songs while a group of Jews in orthodox dress — long ragged coats twirling, dark Hasidic sidelocks flying, beards wild and black hats constantly falling off — bounced and whirled maniacally in an undisciplined impromptu dance, clapping and high-kicking and dragging passing strangers into their circle. The police moved them on once, but gave up in disgust.

With the assistance of onlookers and of their makeshift bookstall, I found that these were Breslover Chasids, followers of Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav, a Ukrainian sage of the 18th century. They believe, as one put it, in "reading the Torah and coming to God through cheerful dancing and not bothering with politics". The book asserts firmly that wars and troubles are not overcome by "sophisticated means" but by praying and dancing. We watched them twirling and bounding, and visibly irritating the sophisticated fellow Israelis who hurried past scowling. There is an expression, apparently: "Mad as a Breslover". But I liked them a lot, and watched for an hour and a half as the brooding night fell.

Trouble in the pipeline

Savings are not on tap, says **Graham Searjeant**

Imagine you are a Tory candidate trying to defend water privatisation to the average elector in Bradford. In theory it was possible. Yes, water quality is better than in the days of the old water authority. Yes, the rivers and estuaries of industrial Yorkshire are cleaner and healthier. Yes, prices have actually risen by less than allowed in 1989. Yes, most people's supplies are more reliable. No, directors of Yorkshire Water are neither highly paid by business standards nor awash with share options.

By then, the householder's attention, your credibility and any hope of a vote would be long gone. Labour candidates, meanwhile, have been conducting unopposed daylight bombing raids on water, the one privatised utility in which prices have consistently risen in real terms. Genuine ammunition seemed to be running out after the latest price review, but last summer's drought exposed Yorkshire Water, a few others — and by implication the Government — to a new hosing of ridicule.

Until Saturday that is. John Major has swum to the rescue with another radical vote-winning idea, which he hopes will bury the issue on the doorstep. Competition has worked wonders in the gas, telephone and electricity industries. It could do the same for water, but not imminently. No legislation is likely before the election. Behind the soundbite, however, is a long-mooted move to encourage limited competition.

Previous measures have never really worked because newcomers had to lay their own water pipes. So the essence of the new plans is to allow competitors to use local monopolies' network, just as in gas, telecoms and electricity. But water is not physically uniform like gas or electricity. As the bounty of nature, it passes through land, drains, ditches, rivers and a mess of organic and chemical matter that leave it quite different, and usually far from the gentle rain of heaven.

As yesterday's consultation paper shows, this causes complications. The statutory monopolies — whose 25-year licences the Government aims to abrogate — must supply drinking water to British and European standards. Their performance is compared, their liability heavy. Much of the £3 billion a year invested in the early years after privatisation was spent to bring water up to scratch. Standards are now high enough to make it reasonable to use one company's mains for another's water. The drawback is that drinking water would become a commodity, based on the legal minimum standard. There would be no incentive for any one company to do any better, for instance on colour or nitrate traces.

There is also no national water grid to match those built for other utilities. Water was always a local or regional service, linked to river systems and boreholes. Thames Water has built a ring-main around London. Others in the South and East have linked rivers and springs, making supplies more reliable than in the normally wetter regions. But building mains from one end of the country to the other is not practical in the private sector. Consumers would not fund the billions needed for the sake of competition's putative benefits. Yorkshire Water must wish it had built a costly pipeline north to Kielder Water, England's prime underused water source; but there is no chance of cheap water from the Borders being sold to consumers in Devon and Cornwall, who have to suffer both high bills and strained supplies.

Competition would have to come from neighbouring companies, or middlemen, who could be sure they had enough water to spare. The main targets would be areas of high charges next to low-cost areas, as in Kent, Sussex and parts of East Anglia. Customers of South West Water might be better off with the forced savings from a takeover bid. And most water charges are for sewage removal, which is not likely to become a fertile sector for competition.

The financial complications are the trickiest. Most of the cost is in local distribution, which will remain a monopoly even if the pipes are turned over to common carriage. The hillier and more rural the territory, the higher those costs will be. If rival suppliers are charged the average cost, there might be little more incentive to compete than now, except for big industrial contracts.

If rivals are charged only for the bits of pipes they use, there could be a free-for-all for customers near company borders, or near big water sources. In that case, the monopolies would either have to abandon the idea of charging all their domestic customers the same, or lose a lot of revenue. Few might cry over that. But a lot of water charges are levied to fund investment, rather than to meet running costs. Some revenue will have to be protected if new reservoirs are to be built.

Water companies will doubtless be hiring much fatter cats than ever to tell them what to do. Meanwhile, Tory candidates will be relieved but domestic customers will notice nothing: except perhaps that their local water company is making a bit more effort to be loved.

Putt down

WHILE Carol Thatcher makes trouble with her forthcoming biography of her father, her brother is having problems of his own.

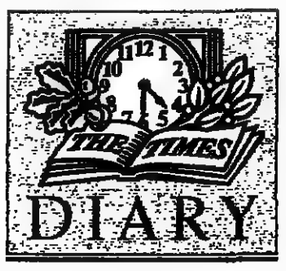
Mark Thatcher, who has moved to Cape Town, was, until a week ago, up for membership of one of the most exclusive golf clubs, the Royal Cape Golf Club in Wynberg.

Some £200,000 of refurbishments had nearly been completed on his £570,000 house in the suburb of Constantia. His membership for Johannesburg's swish Rand Club was progressing. His business, tracking-devices for shopping trolleys, was coming along. In short, all in the life of Thatcher M. was looking rosy.

This week, however, the wheels seem to have come off, with news that his name was mysteriously deleted from the 14-strong list of those newly elected to the Royal Cape Golf Club. Thatcher, who plays off a handicap of eight, needed a proposer, seconder and five referees for election. According to Shaun Malherbe, the club's general manager, however, Thatcher's proposer simply withdrew his proposal at a club meeting.

Mark Thatcher: Cape crusader

● *A peek into the bedroom of the Duchess of Devonshire: she has reached the stage in life when she wakes up so long before breakfast that she keeps a kettle and toaster in the room to keep her sustained. It's not foolproof, as she discloses in* The Spectator. *"Waking at 6am, I made and ate my breakfast, only to discover that the clock's similar-looking hands had played a trick on me, and it was in fact only 12.30am. Too early even for me, but too late to pretend I hadn't had breakfast."*



Conquest

MORMONS are cracking open the cranberry juice to celebrate the selection of David Rutley, William Waldegrave's special adviser, as the Conservative candidate for the safe Tory seat of St Albans. Rutley, a sinewy sort prone to caprine displays on mountain slopes, comfortably won selection on Friday night, after rejections by several other seats, including Buckingham and Sevenoaks. Should he be elected, as expected, he will join Terry Rooney, the Labour MP for Bradford North, as the second Mormon in Parliament.

A former Kentucky Fried Chicken executive, Rutley has been defensive about his religion in the past, concerned that it might jeopardise his chances of selection. Mormons do not drink tea, coffee, alcohol or Coca-Cola. Happily, his fears about discrimination have proved quite unfounded.

Bird brain

A CACOPHONY at the Adam Smith Institute centres on the fate of Archibald, the right-wing think-tank's African Grey parrot. Using a grid onto which he throws sunflower seeds or peanuts, Archibald has developed a system of economic forecasts that turns out to be more reliable than the Treasury's.

On the basis of his squawky prognostications, Archibald has been entered for the John Wood Essay prize, sponsored by the Institute of Economic Affairs. The first prize of £1,500 would keep him in birdseed for many a month, but sticklers for the rules claim he is over age. Candidates must be under 20 — whereas Archie is thought to be almost 21.

Archie: pretty clever boy

● *Over at the Tower of London, they may be on to something. As the rest of the country worries about its steak intake, three new Beefeaters have just been appointed and will be sworn in later this month. This is one of the largest intakes in decades.*

Crowned off

THE PROUD burghers of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames are in a frightful flap over republican tendencies. New signposts appear to demote the longest established of the three Royal Boroughs.

Visitors are now greeted by signs for "Kingston Town Neighbourhood" with no royal mention whatsoever and the loss of the crown from the town's logo. Loyal subjects are appalled, although the council leader, John Tilley, plays down the furore: "Most of this is to do with the fact that I am a republican. People go on and on about this, but it's a storm in a teacup."

The sitting MP, Norman Lamont, however, is beside himself. "It's outrageous. Kingston is an ancient Royal Borough and any attempt to forget that status is absurd."

● *Mohamed Al Fayed, the showy boss of Harrods, has bought his own church. The First Church of Christ Scientist, just off Sloane Square, set him back a hefty million pounds or two yesterday when he exchanged contracts. The building is unlikely to enjoy a religious future — talk is of a Harrods theme restaurant in its vaults.*

P·H·S

POLITICAL JOBBERY

The wrong message from the G7 jamboree at Lille

With French unemployment stuck at 11.8 per cent, President Chirac has used France's position as host to the Group of Seven this year to summon G7 finance and employment ministers to Lille, an unemployment black spot, to talk about jobs and growth. France's Finance Minister naturally turned up; the rest sent their excuses, and their deputies. For Martine Aubry, the daughter of Jacques Delors who is now Lille's Socialist deputy mayor, their absence is an insult to the 23 million unemployed citizens of these countries. A more plausible explanation is that this was a tacit majority vote for the proposition that the best route to creating jobs is less, not more, government spending.

The less finance and employment ministers put their heads together, the better. Sound public finances are the indispensable basis for lower interest rates, lower taxes and non-inflationary growth; and while the grim statistics of the past decade show that growth alone will not guarantee everyone a job in the information age, low or no growth still swells dole queues. Ministers knew that they could expect pressure at Lille to "invest" public money in job creation through fiscal incentives, direct subsidy or the grand public works projects beloved of the European Commission. Rightly they thought it more prudent and honest to stay away.

In only one respect would they have done better to have travelled to Lille: they could have hit Jacques Santer's demand for a European "confidence pact" on jobs firmly and publicly on the head. This is Mr Santer's Big Idea, and just how bad an idea it is emerged clearly from his speech at Lille.

Mr Santer wants a co-ordinated European strategy including "passive and active labour market policies", drawn up in corporatist fashion with Europe's "social partners". Ominously for lightly regulated countries such as Britain, he wants co-ordinated EU policies explicitly in order "to prevent one country gaining at the expense of another". He wants "new initiatives" — code for a go-ahead to spend this year's EU's budget surplus on public works. Above all, he insists that those who find it difficult to adapt to change and global competition must on no account experience "greater insecurity in their living and working conditions and their incomes".

This last argument is the exact opposite of what Europe's politicians should be preparing their public opinion to face. Europe needs far more flexible labour markets if it is to begin to halve its unemployment, to the 5.5 per cent prevailing in America. Inescapably, that means cuts in welfare protection, non-wage labour costs and job protection regulations which deter employers from taking on workers they will not be able to dismiss.

Since all such reforms will be horribly unpopular, governments naturally prefer to dream out loud about "backing" the high-tech jobs of the future and to hold out training, training and yet more training as the key to the promised land. They would be better employed asking how best to reduce the social costs of the deregulation they know must come, as the wages of the least skilled — who have their own continuing roles in the labour market — are driven down by global competition.

Since the 1994 G7 jobs summit in Detroit, most European dole queues have grown. But outside Britain, its leaders still hope not to have to choose between worker protection and job creation. M Chirac appeals wistfully for a "third way" between America's harsh but efficient world of work and Europe's cushioned workers. Germany's Gunther Rexrodt rejects the US "hire and fire mentality" but pleads with workers to accept "downward flexibility of wages" in tough times. Markets will not wait for politicians to find the philosopher's stone. That should, but will not be, the word from Lille.

LORDS OF LIBEL

Bong! An amendment is needed to the Defamation Bill tonight

The current law of libel is a lottery. Huge sums can be won by plaintiffs; jury members may individually enjoy their newspapers but, when the chance to act collectively occurs, they often exact punishment as if motivated by guilt or revenge or both.

Yet libel litigation — which carries no legal aid — is also expensive and cumbersome: a substantial deterrent to those whose reputation has suffered from an unfair allegation. So there is room for improvement for all from the new Defamation Bill, to be debated in the House of Lords tonight.

The Bill introduces a so-called fast-track procedure. Lord Hoffman, who first suggested the scheme, was inspired by a conversation with the late Lord Rothschild who had become infuriated by regular insinuations that he might have been a Russian spy. Lord Rothschild wanted a quick, easy way to clear his name. He did not want to go for a full-scale jury hearing, with enormous costs and publicity — and possibly large damages too. He simply wanted a swift public statement correcting the allegations.

Newspapers and broadcasters are also sometimes in a similar position, wanting to be able to resolve disputes in which an accidental error, perhaps by confusing two people with the same name, gives the offended party the idea of suing for libel and the hope of large jury awards. Certain people are known to newspaper lawyers as "gold-diggers". Not satisfied with a correction and a small amount of compensation, they need little encouragement from their lawyers to take out a libel action; their hope is that the publisher will pay a large sum to the plaintiff, and in costs to the lawyer, rather than face the unpredictable nature of a jury trial.

Most mistakes can, of course, be corrected by a mixture of printed fact and apology without even contemplating recourse to law. But, if this fails, the new Bill would allow defendants who admit that they were wrong to make a formal "offer of amends", involving compensation, correction and apology.

In one respect, however, the current Bill is seriously flawed. If the two parties cannot agree on the wording of the correction and apology or its positioning in the newspaper or programme concerned, it is proposed that it be up to the judge to adjudicate. To some this may sound reasonable. To newspapers and broadcasters, and all who believe in the benefit the greatest possible freedom of the media brings, it represents a massive and unwarranted extension of judicial power.

Imagine the opening of the *News at Ten*: "Bong! ITN would like to apologise unreservedly to Mr A for its unfounded allegation that he was a member of a paedophile ring. There was no truth in this report and a substantial sum has been paid to him in damages. Bong! The Government has been defeated on a vote of confidence and the Prime Minister is on his way to the Palace."

Absurd? It would certainly seem so to the viewer. That, however, would be the effect of this Bill passing unamended into law. The unintended consequence would be that editors would be very wary of allowing their lawyers to use the procedure at all.

Tonight their Lordships have the chance to vote on an amendment that would instead allow the judge to decide the wording of a public apology to be read in open court. Under the Press Complaints Commission's code of practice, the newspaper in question would be obliged to print a fair and accurate report of the case. Its rivals would be delighted to give it publicity too. This amendment should be supported in the interests of freedom of speech as well as justice: it gives judges the right to judge in their domain; and editors the right to edit in theirs.

NAVAL GAZING

Greenwich needs a Napoleon for the millennium

Michael Portillo, has been wise to place the future of the Royal Naval College at Greenwich in the hands of a trust charged with guaranteeing public access. The decision last autumn to employ an estate agent to invite tenders for its future use was an excess of privatising zeal. But, if Greenwich is to make the most of its other piece of great cultural good fortune, the Millennium Exhibition, the vigorous involvement of private sector expertise is urgent.

The Millennium Exhibition site is a short journey down the Thames from the Royal Naval College, but two more divergent London fields it would be hard to find. The college symbolises this nation's maritime power and architectural grace. The proposed exhibition site is 300 derelict acres which need decontamination before a single brick can be laid. The wasteland will cost British Gas £50 million to clear.

The necessary energy and vision to make the exhibition a success is unlikely to come from the current coalition behind Greenwich who have had such a difficult time convincing the Millennium Commission of the virtues of a London site. It is important that business, local government and the agencies of national government all feel a sense of involvement in the exhibition. If the nation is to get the show it deserves, and avoid the debacle that London does not need, only single-minded leadership ready to bruise egos and knock heads together will work. The scale of the task is hard to exaggerate: £500 million will need to be found from the private sector. Building work is supposed to be finished by March, 1999. In comparison, the conversion of the Bankside power station to an annexe of the Tate Gallery, an already agreed lottery project which demands only the alteration of an existing building, will not be ready until well into 2000. Unlike almost any other building scheme, a millennium festival cannot be late.

Even if the exhibition is completed on time, getting people there will be a problem. Sceptics fear transport links to east London will not be good enough. Moreover, while private venues were snapped up for the Millennium years ago and alternative attractions like the Sydney Olympics have been making their pitch, marketing has hardly started to attract visitors to the UK's Millennium Exhibition.

The Great Exhibition of 1851 depended on the drive of Prince Albert. The Festival of Britain in 1951 was very much the product of Herbert Morrison's ambition. If the Millennium Exhibition is to be a worthy successor to those two great festivals in the capital it will, like them, require a presiding genius to provide the necessary leadership. What the Millennium Exhibition requires is a business Bonaparte who can make private enterprise work in the public interest.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

MP's crucial vote in currency debate

From Sir Julian Critchley, MP for Aldershot (Conservative)

Sir, If the Tories fail to hold Staffordshire South East later this month, the Government's majority will fall to one. I hope it is not immodest of me to say that I shall be it, given my physical state and reluctance to vote on any issue other than one of confidence or on Europe.

I have written to my whip to tell him that under no circumstance would I vote for the Government were it to bow to pressure from the Euro-sceptic wing of the party and include a promise of a referendum on a single currency in the party's election manifesto.

A single currency will be for the Cabinet and House of Commons of the day to decide whether or not entry should be in Britain's interest. In the meantime Messrs Ken Clarke and Michael Heseltine are doing the party a service by resisting any attempt to twist the Prime Minister's arm to make yet another concession to the enemies of a more closely integrated Europe (report, April 1).

Yours ever,
JULIAN CRITCHLEY,
House of Commons.
April 1.

Grassroots views

From Mr Martin Ball

Sir, That Brian Mawhinney claims that last autumn's survey of 30,000 Conservative grassroots members "showed the membership to be broadly in tune with the party leadership" (report, March 28) defies belief.

According to your report of the survey, the majority of participants were reluctant to join a single European currency. This contrasts with the known enthusiasm of many Cabinet members for monetary union. Further, the motions to last year's Conservative Party conference opposing outright the single currency outnumbered by two to one those supporting the Government line to wait and see the proposals.

Far from supporting Mr Mawhinney's analysis, the evidence demonstrates that the Tory leadership is out of touch with its grassroots activists' hostility to greater European integration.

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN BALL,
17 Haverfield Road, Bow, E3.
March 29.

From Professor Peter T. Landsberg

Sir, Should we have a referendum on the EMU? "Yes", says Mr Adam Roxborough (letter, March 29). "What matters is the right to choose".

But is this a mistaken view of democracy? Democracy means something different: the right to choose a representative who can then be trusted to make important decisions on our behalf.

The EMU decision is highly technical and to arrive at it requires the study of much background information. For example, is the loss of one chance to fine-tune the economic relations between countries by adjustment of the exchange rate more than offset by the merits of a single currency?

The EMU decision is in my view an example par excellence of a situation where a referendum is precisely undesirable, and where a well-informed decision by members of Parliament is our main hope to get it right.

Yours faithfully,
PETER T. LANDSBERG,
The Athenaeum,
Pall Mall, SW1.
March 29.

Flexible Europe

From the Ambassador of Italy

Sir, In your leading article, "The view from Turin" (March 29), you quote Boris Biancheri, the Secretary-General of Italy's Foreign Office: the reason we need "to conceive a Europe that is different from the one we have been living with" is that so much has changed in Europe in the last years.

What has not changed, however, is Italy's determination to see the aims of the founding fathers of the EEC eventually fulfilled: that of a Europe united and in peace with the rest of the world. Flexibility should be seen as an effective tool to this end: by allowing those among us who are willing and ready to move further and faster in the context of commonly shared objectives, we believe that the chances of eventually uniting Europe will be made greater, not smaller.

Flexible arrangements, in other words, should keep the door open for those who may not be able to join the rest for the time being, and not help setting up permanently different groupings through which united Europe would inevitably founder.

Yours sincerely,
PAOLO GALLI,
Italian Embassy,
4 Grosvenor Square, W1.
March 29.

Business letters, page 29

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

Dearing's recommendations and the future of A levels

From Dr Peter Gold

Sir, I disagree with your leader on proposed changes to 16 to 19 study ("Academic questions", March 28) on two counts.

First you defend A levels as the standard by which all other post-16 study must be measured. Not only are A levels a poor indicator of an individual's potential to benefit from higher education but they do not equip students for the world of industry and commerce.

A levels were designed 50 years ago by the universities to replicate preparation for undergraduate study of a specialist nature to which university lecturers themselves were dedicated. A levels are no longer appropriate for the range of students who are now able to benefit from the much more diverse offerings available in the country's higher education institutions — 144 of them in England and Wales alone. That diversity needs the kind of preparation which Sir Ron Dearing's report has proposed.

I must also take your leader to task about the remark that "calling polytechnics universities has not improved the quality of their education". The fact is that teaching and learning at the new universities (former polytechnics) was probably always of a higher standard than the older universities because all their courses had to be rigorously vetted by the Council for National Academic Awards, and because they were principally teaching institutions. Moreover, they have always offered courses more in tune with the needs of business and industry.

Now that the former polytechnics are funded (although still unequally) from the same source as the older universities, the level of their resourcing, the quality of their staffing and the greater opportunities for research mean that the teaching and learning process has indeed improved at the newer universities.

Yours faithfully,
PETER GOLD
(Chair, Faculty Board),
Faculty of Languages
and European Studies,
University of the West
of England, Bristol,
Coldharbour Lane, Bristol, Avon.
March 28.

From Mr Andrew Mitchell

Sir, Your leader on Sir Ron Dearing's report will come as a disappointment to many teachers in the further education sector.

You state that "the system of General National Vocational Qualifications (GNVQs) and NVQs does not enjoy parity of esteem with A levels". This ignores evidence, presented on your own education pages (December 1, 1995), that "students on vocational courses ... are more likely to receive an offer of a place (at university) than A-level candidates"; Ucas research concluded, morever, that "GNVQs prepare students well for university work".

You also argue that the renaming of the GNVQ as an "applied A level" is of "dubious virtue". I agree, but dislike the underlying point that this would debase the standard of the A level. The GNVQ is developing a culture of its own and we should be proud of its ambitious attempt to mix practical competence, subject-knowledge and core skills.

To merge this approach with the narrower focus of the A level and create some sort of hybrid practical qualification would serve neither interest well. Improvements in this field should surely be parallel and complementary rather than merged and conflicting.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW MITCHELL
(Lecturer in further education),
6 Moor Lane,
Branston Booths, Lincoln.
March 28.

From Professor David Weitzman

Sir, Your claim in today's leader that "modular teaching is the enemy of excellence" is an unjustified and sweeping assertion that will generate causeless anxiety, not least amongst the tens of thousands of students pursuing modular courses at universities. And you alert readers to the "strong suspicion" that A levels may be easier to acquire, partly because of modular teaching. Yet if modular teaching should prove to be more effective, shouldn't we embrace it enthusiastically?

Modular teaching, even if it has not always paraded under that name, has long been used in education and training, and our respected professions, such as medicine, unashamedly employ the technique. A modular system that involves testing individual modules can still evaluate students' ability to synthesise their knowledge by requiring them to pass some form of final examination.

Ultimately, all that really matters is what students understand and what they can do with their learning. I suggest that the jury is still out on the question of whether it is better to display the totality of one's coverage of a study programme in a single dash and then quickly forget most of it, or to take a number of smaller hurdles and then forget in stages.

Yours faithfully,
P. D. J. WEITZMAN,
41 Hollybush Road, Cardiff.
March 28.

From the President of the Society of Education Officers

Sir, What are we to make of national policy on education when on consecutive days we have announcements about the development of a unified framework of qualifications for 16 to 19-year-olds and the introduction of more haphazard selection at 11 plus (reports, March 28, 29)?

Sir Ron Dearing properly draws our attention to the needs of the majority of young people for whom A level was not designed and is not appropriate. His attempt to raise the status of vocational qualifications is a timely move to fill a significant gap in our present system.

The debate about selection is a diversion. If greater freedom for individual schools to select their pupils is the solution to raising standards for all, can we expect to be inundated with proposals from schools to admit only pupils from the lower 75 per cent of the ability range?

Yours faithfully,
HEATHER Du QUESNAY
(Executive Director of Education,
London Borough of Lambeth),
Education Department,
234-244 Stockwell Road, SW9.
March 29.

Zen in management

From Mr Justin Reay

Sir, Your third leader, "Stroke your resources" (March 21), is amusing about faddish management techniques. You cite British diffidence and reticence as reasons why "foreign" people-management concepts may not work here.

Surely that is the point. Changes in society have altered our personal expectations of the manner in which we work together. We want a more human management style and we respond positively to it.

If British business is to compete effectively in the world we must develop the skills of all our people, unlocking their creativity. That may mean using techniques which have been effective elsewhere.

Developing individual competence in teamwork and in continuous-improvement strategies (for which *kaizen* is merely a useful shorthand, not the cultural imposition you imply) should not be so lightly rejected. The future of our country's prosperity is too important for that, and your leader sounded peevishly chauvinist in criticising an important step forward for an embattled City facing more competition from the very countries whose techniques you belittle.

Certainly the manner in which such programmes are implemented is critical. A development programme must fit the business need, must be culturally acceptable and must be measurably effective if it is to deliver the improvements which are needed to ensure success in the tough world we live in.

Human creativity founded the businesses which provide our high standard of living. Management techniques in keeping with modern human aspirations are necessary to safeguard it.

Yours faithfully,
JUSTIN REAY (Chief Executive),
Summit Developments
International Ltd,
1 The Glebe, Stone,
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.
March 23.

From Mr Will Hopper

Sir, I think you dismiss the introduction of Zen practices into a London bank too easily. There is much to be said for learning what the Japanese call *wa*, or working together.

However, such practices are liable to fall flat on their faces unless they are accompanied by appropriate changes elsewhere in the organisation. There is no point in asking people to be friendly and co-operative with each other if they operate within a structure which inclines them to be nasty and competitive. The structure will win.

Similar workshops have been held in the US for some years. They are now treated with a degree of cynicism by staff because they have been followed by massive reductions in staff. Employees discovered that the love the company bore them had "all too short a date". It is more important for British financial institutions to learn from Japan the good managerial practices which Americans such as Homer Sarasohn taught there fifty years ago and which the Japanese developed and passed on to the "tiger" economies.

The original vehicle for the instruction was General MacArthur's Civil Communications Section in Japan, after which we have named the CCS Institute, a not-for-profit organisation founded to promote these practices. The disasters affecting, for example, Barings and Lloyd's could have been avoided if what Sarasohn calls "the principles of progressive management" had been observed. In these cases strong middle managers were required — and were absent.

Yours sincerely,
WILL HOPPER (Chairman),
CCS Institute,
43 Flask Walk, NW3.
March 27.

Gun licences

From Mr Lionel Alexander

Sir, Dr Nick Barnes (letter, March 27) implies that anyone applying for a licence for a handgun is deranged and so should be refused. He is right.

Anyone with sense and an elastic conscience who wants a handgun will have no trouble in acquiring it illegally at far less cost in trouble and money.

It was ever thus. Successive layers of bureaucracy laid on legitimate firearms users have done nothing to stem the rising popularity of illegal handguns in crime.

The work involved does, however, keep the police off the streets.

Yours faithfully,
LIONEL ALEXANDER,
Clunemore,
Drumnadrochit,
Invernesshire.
March 27.

From Mr John Farmer

Sir, In response to the implication in Dr D. N. Barnes's letter that no sane person would want to apply for a handgun licence, I can only speak from a modest sporting perspective. Regarding handguns I believe I was once a better cricketer, better squash player, and now in my sixties a better pianist than I ever was, or am, a pistol shot. Notwithstanding, I still practise and enjoy this sport within my limitations.

In my experience no other sport requires the same degree of physical self-control and emotional detachment to attain any degree of success. It is a classless activity within which age and sex are irrelevant. The ethos of pistol shooting is wholly based on dedicated self-restraint.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN FARMER,
52 Minories, EC3.
March 27.

Free eye tests

From the Director of Community Services, RNIB

Sir, The RNIB welcomes the news that Labour is to consider restoring free eye tests for the over-65s (report, March 22).

After the abolition of free eye tests in April 1989 the number of eye examinations carried out fell dramatically. There has been some recovery since then, but we believe that some 20 million additional tests would have been carried out over the period 1989-95 if charges had not been introduced and that, as a result, treatable conditions such as glaucoma are not being identified and people are losing their sight unnecessarily.

While 40 per cent of the population is exempt from test charges — including the under-16s, those on income support and family credit, and "high risk" groups such as those with a family history of glaucoma — a significant proportion of the population is unaware of this fact. We would like to see a vigorous public education campaign informing people of their entitlements.

A commitment to bringing back free eye tests for nine million pensioners would be a first and welcome step. However, RNIB would like to see Labour go one step further and give a commitment to restore free eye tests for everyone.

Yours sincerely,
TONY ASTON,
Director, Community Services,
Royal National Institute for the Blind,
224 Great Portland Street, W1.
March 22.

Origins of Grace

From Mr J. E. Humphrey

Sir, *Amazing Grace* — a "modern song" (At your service, Weekend, March 23)? Steady, please!

Author, John Newton (1725-1807), *Olney Hymns* (1779); the melody an early American folk-tune, thought to have had a Scottish origin.

Yours faithfully,
J. E. HUMPHREY,
9 Offington Gardens,
Worthing, West Sussex.
March 23.

A little nag

From Mr Robert Sproat

Sir, Julian Muscat writes (Sport, March 25) that the Dubai World Cup is for "distant ancestors" of three Arabian stallions chosen to establish the thoroughbred racehorse more than 250 years ago.

Are these horses old chestnuts?

Yours truly,
ROBERT SPROAT,
51 Talbot Road, Highgate, N6.
March 25.

Watcher of the skies

From Mr Derek Duncan

Sir, Yes — I saw the comet (reports, March 18 and 27) the other night.

With the naked eye, it looked like a fuzzy patch. With binoculars, it looked like — a fuzzy patch. How boring comets are.

Another 1,700 years? I shan't bother to wait.

Yours truly,
DEREK DUNCAN,
Heather Way, 5 Gong Hill Drive,
Lower Bourne, Farnham, Surrey.
April 1.

COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 1: Lady Abel Smith has succeeded Lady Dugdale as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 1: The Duke of York today carried out a series of engagements in Boston and on board *HMY Britannia* in the United States of America.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 1: The Duke of Kent, President, this evening attended the exhibition 'Together: The Commonwealth in War', at the Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will visit the Princess Christian's Hospital, Windsor, at 11.45.

The Prince of Wales will visit the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund's new day centre at Macmillan House, Woodhouse Lane, Bishop Auckland, County Durham, at 10.10; as President of Business in the Community, will visit the Ford and Pennywell Advice Centre, Community College, Porchester Road, at 11.50; will visit Pennywell School, Portsmouth Road, at 12.25; will visit St Peter's Campus, Sunderland University, at 1.00; and, as Vice President of the National Trust, will visit Gibside, Rowlands Gill, Burnopfield, at 3.00.

Princess Alexandra will attend a performance of the *St John Passion* given by the orchestra of *St John's Smith Square* at 7.30.

Baroness Faithfull

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Baroness Faithfull will take place in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, at noon on Thursday, June 6. Those wishing to attend are requested to apply for tickets to: The Rector's Secretary, Room 6, 1 Little Cloister, Westminster Abbey, SW1P 3PL, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope. Tickets will be posted on May 24.

Geoffrey Jameson

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Geoffrey Jameson, CVO, will be held on Friday, April 26, at 11.30am, at Southwark Cathedral, London, SE1.

Appointment

The Nuffield Trust for the Forces of the Crown
Admiral Sir Brian Brown assumed the appointment of Chairman of the Executive Committee of The Nuffield Trust for the Forces of the Crown on April 1, 1996, in succession to Air Chief Marshal Sir David Lee who retires after 25 years as a Trustee. Air Chief Marshal Sir Roger Palin has been appointed as a Governing Trustee.

Premium Bonds

The £1 million prize in the Premium Bond draw for April was won with bond number 12NB 293042. The winner lives in Middlesex, and has a bond holding of £20,000.

The British Library

The second annual Douglas Bryant Lecture to be held today has had to be cancelled due to the withdrawal of the speaker, Dr James Billington. The British Library apologises for the short notice of this change, and regrets any inconvenience caused. Further information 0171-412 7760.

Cranleigh School

Cranleigh School has awarded the following Scholarships for 1996:
Sixth Form Academic: *Michelle L Ralph*, Tormead, Guildford; *Elizabeth Garnsworthy*, Tormead, Guildford; Sanjmi Kent, Hillcrest Secondary School, Nairobi; Nicole L Scott, Wimbledon High School; Rachael E Abbott, St Catherine's, Bramley; Alexandra M Bennett, St Maur's, Weybridge.
Sixth Form Music: Bora Lee, Woldingham; Anne F Bird, Concord-Carlisle High School, USA; Lucy May, The Howard of Effingham School.
Fourth Form Academic: M.J. Vaughan, Cranleigh Preparatory School; L.O.G. Owen, St Andrew's, Horsell; A.J.F. Chaplin, Aldro; C.R.F. *Watling*, *Cranleigh Preparatory* School; T.N.C. Wheeler, Aldro; A.J. Selby, Danes Hill; M.A. Howard, Cranleigh Preparatory School; P.J. Bird, Haslemere Preparatory School.
Fourth Form Music: D.A.R. Hammond, Lanesborough; A.J.F. Chaplin, Aldro.
Fourth Form Music Exhibition: C.R.F. Watling, Cranleigh Preparatory School.
Fourth Form Art: D.F. Hobden, Brambletye; L.H.N. Williams, Hoe Bridge.
Junior Scholarship: R.C. McKenzie, Park Mead Junior School, Cranleigh.

Institute of Trade Mark Agents

The following have been elected officers of the Institute of Trade Mark Agents for the ensuing year: President, Mr John Slater; Senior Vice-President, Mr Eric Ramage; Junior Vice-President, Mr John Caisley; Treasurer, Mr Christopher Cook; Registrar, Mrs Margaret Tyler.

Birthdays today

Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, 53; Sir Jack Brabham, racing driver, 70; Sir Graham Bright, MP, 54; Mr Linford Christie, athlete, 36; Air Marshal Sir Geoffrey Dhenin, 78; Captain Sir Richard Dobbs, former Lord Lieutenant of Co Antrim, 77; Sir Christopher France, civil servant, 62; Miss Catherine Gaskin, author, 67; Mr Brian Glover, actor, 61; Mr Raymond Gubbay, concert promoter, 50; Sir Alec Guinness, CH, actor, 82; Viscount Hambleden, 66; Mr T.H.P. Heynes, Headmaster, Monmouth School, Gwent, 41; Mr Barry Hills, racehorse trainer, 59; Sir Ian Hunter, impresario, 77; Miss Penelope Keith, actress, 56; Sir Peter Middleton, deputy chairman, Barclays Bank, 62; the Marquess of Northampton, 50; Major-General C.J. Popham, 69; Mr A.C. Puddephatt, former general secretary, Liberty, 46; Mr M.G. Rizzello, sculptor and coin designer, 70; Sir Denis Rooke, former chairman, British Gas, 72; Lord Skelmersdale, 51; Vice-Admiral Sir Hugh Thompson, 65; Miss Sue Townsend, writer, 50; Mr Denis Tuohy, broadcaster, 59.

ADRIAN BROOKS

On the march: debutantes in brightly coloured designer suits step out near the Savoy Hotel, London, in a preview of tonight's Berkeley dress show where 20 of the girls will be modelling. The show's organisers hope to raise £15,000 for the NSPCC

Luncheons

Farmers' Company
Mr J.S. Borner, Master of the Farmers' Company, presided at an apprentices and livery luncheon held yesterday at Farmers' Fletchers' Hall. The Masters of the Butchers', Brewers' and Poulters' Companies were among the guests.

London Europe Society
The German Ambassador was the guest speaker at a luncheon of the London Europe Society held yesterday at the St Ermin's Hotel. Mr Derek Prag, chairman of the society, was the host. The Ambassadors of Italy, the Netherlands, Austria and Switzerland, Ministers from the Belgian, Irish, Polish and Chinese Embassies and members of the banking, business and academic communities were among the guests.

Dinners

HM Government
Mr Malcolm Rifkind, QC, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the host at a dinner given yesterday by Her Majesty's Government at 1 Carlton Gardens in honour of Dr Klaus Kinkel, Foreign Minister of Germany.

Chatham Dining Club
Mr David Trimble, MP, was the principal guest at a dinner of the Chatham Dining Club held last night at the St Ermin's Hotel. Mr Harry Verney was in the chair.

The Athenaeum
Mr Keith Walley was the principal speaker at a talk dinner of the Athenaeum held last night at the club. Professor Sir Frederick Warner, FRS, was in the chair.

Hereford and Worcester

Brigadier Ronald George Silk, Retd, has been appointed a Deputy Lieutenant.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Timothy Ling, Assistant Curate, St James, Gerrards Cross: now Assistant Curate, St Peter, Old Woking (Guildford).
The Rev Richard Morgan, permission to officiate, diocese Southwark: to be Incumbent (NSM), Therfield in plurality w Kelshall (St Albans).
The Rev Nelva Moss, NSM, Bincombe w Broadwey, Upwey and Buckland Ripers (Salisbury): to be NSM, Langtree Team Ministry (Oxford).
The Rev Pauline Moyse: now Chaplain to Farnborough College (Guildford).
The Rev Jonathan Perkin, Curate, St Andrew's, Cullompton (Exeter): to be Deputy Rector, Ashtead (Guildford).
The Rev Gerald Priday, Curate (NSM), All Saints and St Barnabas, Hereford: to be Curate (NSM), Weobley group of parishes (Hereford).
The Rev Hugh Scriven, Team Vicar, Madeley: to be *also* Associate Rural Dean of Telford Severn Gorge (Hereford).
The Rev Stephen Smith: to be Rector, Lanteglos-by-Camelford w St Adwena (Truro).
The Rev Andrew Spurr, lately Assistant Curate, St Margaret's, Rainham (Rochester): now Curate, Stansted Mountfitchet (Chelmsford).
The Rev Simon Thomas, Assistant Curate in the diocese of St Albans: to be Assistant Curate, Ashtead (Guildford).
The Rev Ruth Thompson, *Curate*, St Paul's, Northfield w Ealing (London): to be Team Vicar, West Slough Team Ministry, St George's, Britwell (Oxford).
The Rev Richard Thornburgh, formerly Team Vicar, Beaminster Team Ministry (Salisbury): now Team Vicar, Hanley Team, w special responsibility for St Luke's, Wellington (Lichfield).
The Rev Allan Toop, Priest-in-charge, St John the Baptist, Stokesay; St Michael and All Angels, Sibdon Carwood; St Thomas, Halford: to be also Priest-in-charge, St Margaret, Acton Scott (Hereford).
The Rev Clement Upton, Vicar, Christ Church, Laxey, Isle of Man (*Sodor and Man*): *to be Vicar*, Hipswell (Ripon).
The Rev Jeffrey Wattley, diocese Oxford: now Vicar, St John, Wonersh (Guildford).
The Rev Alan West, Assistant Curate, St George the Martyr w St Jude and St Alphege, Southwark (Southwark): to be Vicar, Boscoppa (Truro).
The Rev Keith West, Curate, Rawmarsh w Parkgate (Sheffield): to be Curate, St Bartholomew, Armley w New Wortley (Ripon).
The Rev Ian White, Team Vicar, Schorne (Oxford): to be Vicar, St Peter and St Paul, St Osyth (Chelmsford).
The Rev Gavin Williamson, Rector, Dunboyne, Dunshaughlin and Maynooth, diocese Meath and Kildare, Church of Ireland: to be Precentor and Honorary Minor Canon at Canterbury Cathedral (Canterbury).

Resignations and retirements
The Rev Gerald Amos, Team Vicar, St Nathanael, Walton on the Hill (Liverpool): to retire August 25.
The Rev John Andrews, Rector, The Seaton Ross Group of parishes (York): to retire October 13, but continue as Rural Dean of South Wold until September 30.
The Rev Christopher Atkins, Rector, Church Oakley w Wootton St Lawrence (Winchester): to retire July 31.
Canon Dr Lloyd Caddick, Vicar, Oundle w Ashton (Peterborough): to retire June 30.
The Rev Martin Chadwick, Vicar, Charlbury w Shorthampton (Oxford): to retire May 31.
The Rev Joan Cook, Priest-in-charge, St Hilda's, Hartlepool (Durham): resigned March 31.
The Rev Anthony Cornish, Vicar, Rawreth, St Nicholas w Rettendon All Saints (Chelmsford): to retire June 30.
The Rev Joseph Edwards, Rector, North and South Kilworth and Misterton (Leicester): to retire June 30.
The Rev Alan Evans, Vicar, All Saints, Squirrels Heath, Ardleigh Green (Chelmsford): to resign June 17.
Prebendary William Frost, Team Vicar, Wombourne Team Ministry (Lichfield): to retire May 31.
Canon David Hinge, Honorary Canon of Durham Cathedral and Rector, Etherley (Durham): to retire as Rector, Etherley as from August 31, but retain his Honorary Canonry.
Canon Evelyn Hughes, Priest-in-charge, Badshot Lea (Guildford): to retire June 30.
The Rev Thomas McCoulough, Priest-in-charge, Sutton-on-the-Forest and Lay Training Officer for the York archdeaconry (York): to retire July 31.
The Rev Kenneth Miller, Team Rector, Wolstanton Team Ministry (Lichfield): to retire April 30.
The Rev Christopher Penn, Vicar, Avonmouth and Industrial Chaplain for Avonmouth (Bristol): to take early retirement on medical grounds as from May 1.
The Rev Jeremy Piersenne, Rector, Windlesham (Guildford): to retire August 31.
The Rev John Stephenson, Vicar, Eppleton (Durham): retired on grounds of health as from March 11, but retains permission to officiate in the diocese.
The Rev William Taylor, Vicar, Pelton (Durham): to resign July 31.
Canon Jack Wardle, Rector, Barton Seagrave w Warkton (Peterborough): to retire April 7.
The Rev Richard Woods, Vicar, Englefield Green (Guildford): to retire September 30.

University news

Edinburgh
The university is to award honorary degrees to the following:
Mr John Bellany and Lord Wolfson, doctors *honoris causa*; Dr George Mackay Brown, doctor of letters (DLitt); Professor Ian D Aitken, Director of the Moredun Research Institute, doctor of veterinary medicine and surgery; Professor Frederik Barth, Professor of Anthropology, Emory University, doctor of science in social sciences; Professor Max L Birnstiel, Director of the Institute for Molecular Pathology, Vienna, DSc; Mr Allan Cameron, Senior Meat Inspector (retired), BSc; Dr Bernard Dixon, science journalist and author, DSc; Professor H John Evans, retired Director of the MRC Human Genetics Unit, Edinburgh, DSc; Mr Thomas Farmer, Chairman and Founder, Kwik-Fit, doctor *honoris causa*; Mr Moussa Ebrahim Jogee, Scottish Commissioner for Racial Equality, DLitt; Lord Murray, Senator of the College of Justice and former Lord Advocate, and former Vice-Chairman of the University Court, doctor *honoris causa*; Mr Robert Sandilands, retired member of the University of Edinburgh Works Department, MA; Mr Peter Schwarz, retired Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Science and Engineering at the University of Edinburgh, doctor *honoris causa*; Professor Christopher Smout, Director of St John's House, University of St Andrews, doctor of science in social sciences; Professor Luigi Ferdinando Tagliavini, Professor of Musicology and Director of the Institute of Musicology, University of Fribourg, Switzerland, D Mus; Professor Emeritus Peter B Townsend, Professor of Social Policy, University of Bristol, doctor of science in social sciences; Mr Gordon Ying Sheung Wu, Managing Director, Hopewell Holdings, Hong Kong, doctor *honoris causa*.
Honorary Fellowships are also to be awarded to:
Mrs Winifred Logan Gordon, former member of the Department of Nursing in the early days of the development of the Department of Nursing Studies; Brigadier Sidney Park Robertson, Director of S & J D Robertson Group; Mr David Ross-Stewart, Chairman of Scottish Provident.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr N. Acheson and Dr H.M. Smith
The engagement is announced between Nigel, elder son of Mr and Mrs K.W. Acheson, of Belfast, and Helen, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs R.C. Smith, of Corley, Warwickshire.

Mr S.G. Brotherton and Miss E.A. Peters
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Dr and Mrs Ian Brotherton, of Over Haddon, Derbyshire, and Elizabeth, daughter of Air Vice-Marshal and Mrs R.G. Peters, of Haddenham, Buckinghamshire.

Mr L.J. Christianakis and Miss F.W. Steele
The engagement is announced between Leon, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Christianakis, of Harare, Zimbabwe, and Fiona, daughter of Mr Terence Steele, of Milford-on-Sea, Hampshire, formerly of Hong Kong, and Mrs Jannine Steele, of Perth, Western Australia.

Mr G.W.G. Cooke and Miss V.A.R. Hancock
The engagement is announced between Guy, eldest son of Mrs Margaret Cooke, of Wroxton, Oxon, and the late Mr Desmond Cooke, and Victoria, daughter of Mr and Mrs W.R. Hancock, of Guildford, Surrey.

Mr C.H.G. Glyn and Miss C. Agnew
The engagement is announced between Caspar, son of Mr James Glyn, of Tawau, North Borneo, and Mrs Lucinda Glyn, of London SW10, and Christine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Agnew, of Myrtlefield Park, Belfast.

Mr M.L. Harvie-Watt and Miss M.M.N. Thompson
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Sir James and Lady Harvie-Watt, of Kensington, London, and Miranda, daughter of Mr Martin Thompson and Mrs Astell, both of London.

Mr E-J.J. Hentenaar and Miss F.E.F. Wilson
The engagement is announced between Evert-Jan Jouke, son of Mrs Robert Baly and stepson of Mr Robert Baly, of Manoir d'Ecorcheville, Pont L'Evêque, France, and Fiona Elizabeth Frances, younger daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Douglas Wilson, previously of Chawton, Hampshire.

Mr J. Lee and Miss J.C. Phillips
The engagement is announced between Jason, second son of Mr and Mrs John Lee, of Harpenden, Hertfordshire, and Joanna, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs David Phillips, of Abergavenny, Gwent.

Meeting

Royal Over-Seas League
Mr Tony Hams, environmental adviser to the Local Government Management Board, was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Discussion Circle of the Royal Over-Seas League held last night at Over-Seas House, St James's. Mrs Mairi Radcliff presided.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Giovanni Casanova, adventurer, Venice, 1725; Hans Christian Andersen, storyteller, Odense, Denmark, 1805; Emile Zola, novelist and critic, Paris, 1840; Sergei Rachmaninov, composer and pianist, Oneg, Russia, 1873; Max Ernst, Surrealist painter and sculptor, Brühl, Germany, 1891; Marvin Gaye, singer, Washington DC, 1939.
DEATHS: Samuel Morse, painter and inventor of the telegraphic code bearing his name, New York, 1872; C.S. Forester, novelist, Fullerton, California, 1966.
Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands, 1982.

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Exalt the Lord our God, and bow down towards his holy mountain; for holy is the Lord our God.
Psalm 99 : 9 (REB)

BIRTHS

BEDDOWS - On March 30th, to Sarah (née Harley) and Philip, a son, William Michael George.

BROWN - On 26th March at The Portland Hospital, to Tracy and Jarret, a beautiful daughter, Jaime Beth and congratulations to the grandparents.

BUXKIN - On March 29th 1996 at The Portland Hospital, to Kate (née Taylor) and Tony, a beautiful son, Jonathan George, a brother for Eleanor.

CAVENDISH - On March 30th, to Lesley and Jonathan, two daughters, Polly and Willow and a son, Theodore (Teddy).

FOY - On March 29th at The Portland Hospital, to Rosemary (née Baillie) and Gregory, a handsome son, Ethan.

GOODMAN - On March 20th, to Sharon (née Yoxall) and Andrew, a son, Samuel Edward John, a brother for Jessica May.

HAMILTON - On March 29th at The Portland Hospital, to Yvonne and Guy, a boy, Keir, a brother for Kyla.

HULMES - On 29th March, to Claire (née Davies) and Iain, a son, Robert McPhee.

JACKSON - On March 28th, to Hugh and Claire (née Warden), a daughter, Tara Sally.

LIBBERT - To David and Françoise (née Bongrand), a daughter, Eloise Anna, born March 29th in Lyon.

MOSS - On March 12th 1996, to Alison (née Ingham) and Michael, twin sons, Hugo Charles and William Michael.

PLUMB - On 19th March 1996, to Robert and Jane (née Swallow), a son, Theodore Leslie, a brother for Oliver.

PRIEST - On March 26th 1996, to Sarah (née Bailey) and Nick, a daughter, Jessica Rachel Anne, a sister to James and William.

ROLLS - On 18th March, to Fiona (née McLaren) and Jeremy, a son, Matthew McLaren.

TEASDALE/PEGUS - On March 26th, to William and Jane, a son - Augustus (Gus) Seymour.

TURNER - On 30th March at Queen Charlotte's Hospital (thank you to colleagues), to Lucy (née Ould) and Matthew, a daughter, Annabelle Sarah Manson.

VARNEY - On 28th March, at St Thomas's Hospital, to Louise (née Owen) and Guy, a son, Edward Hugh Buckingham, a brother for Nicholas.

VERONIQUE - On March 28th at The Portland Hospital, to Carol (née Brooker) and Maurice, a beautiful daughter, Chloe Leticia, a sister for Andre and Jorge.

DEATHS

ARNOLD - Nina Vivian (née Akroyd) on March 23rd 1996 in her sleep aged 54 whilst in hospital after a very short illness. Adored wife of David for nearly thirty three happy years and much loved mother of Annabel and Fiona. Her calm, strength and kindness will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. A private family funeral has taken place.

BAND - David, died suddenly ski-ing with his family in Val d'Isere on Thursday 28th March 1996. Much loved husband of Olivia and devoted father of Ben and Isabelle. Private funeral. Memorial Service to be announced. Donations to St Edmund Hall, Oxford, OX1 4AR.

BEITH - After a long illness bravely fought at all times on Thursday 28th March at Swallows Craig, Oban, Jane (Dee) Doreen Butler. Beloved wife of Norris Beith. Cremation Service in Cloister Chapel, Warriston Crematorium, Edinburgh on Thursday 4th April at 12.45pm. Afterwards at The Royal Abbey Hotel, Carlton Terrace.

BRAIN - Stanley Henry M.B.E.
Suddenly at St. Peters Hospital, Chertsey on Friday, 29th March. Beloved husband of Patricia, father of Malcolm and grandfather of Lucinda and Thomas.
Chairman of Arrow Plastics Limited, former Master of the Worshipful Company of Lightmongers and President of the Lighting Industry Federation
Private Cremation, with all enquiries to Frederick Paine Limited, 29 Coombe Road, Norbiton Kingston upon Thames.
Tel: (0181) 546 4813
A full Memorial Service for Stanley will be held in the future, so that his many friends from all his varied interests can celebrate his life with the Family - Date to be advised.

CALZADA - On 27th March, after a short illness borne with great courage, Tim (Lucy), very beloved wife and companion of Rafael and much loved and loving sister of Billy (Edith) Butler Madden. Greatly loved, she will be missed by family and friends in the U.K., Spain and Argentina. The funeral will take place at Milton Keynes Crematorium, (Crownhill), on Wednesday 3rd April at 12 noon. Family flowers only, but donations, if desired, for The Macmillan Nursing Service, The Cats Protection League, North London Branch or the Kent Animal Wildlife Sanctuary Trust, via Funeral Directors H.W. Mason & Sons, 9 High Street, Newport Pagnell, Bucks. MK16 8AR.

CLARKE - Winifred Kenneth (Tubby) Clarke peacefully on 29th March 1996, beloved husband of Nancy. Family flowers only please to J.H. Kenyon, 49 Marloes Road, London W8. Donations to Royal Hospital for Neuro Disability, West Hill, Putney, London SW15 3SW.

CLARK - On March 29th suddenly at Lancaster Infirmary, Linda Birch Clark aged 82 years, of Arnside, Cumbria. Enquiries tel: (015395) 63108.

CROSS - Thomas Conyngham Rupert died peacefully at home in Auckland, NZ, on 29th March 1996 aged 87. A much loved grandfather and great-grandfather. Will be greatly missed by his wife Molly, family and friends.

CORBETT-WINDER - Teddy, 29th March, passed away peacefully in his sleep. Family cremation service North Devon Crematorium 4th April at 11 am. Memorial Service Wednesday 10th April at 2.30 pm at Emmanuel Church, Okehampton Street, Exeter, and afterwards at Emmanuel Church Hall. Donations in lieu of flowers to DIRECT, Diabetes Research Centre, Barrack Road, Exeter EX2 5AX.

DAVIES - Reverend Arthur Cecil Francis on March 28th at home aged 88 years after a long illness bravely borne. Beloved husband of Beryl and much loved father and grandfather. Service St Mary's, Stamford, Tuesday 4th April 12 noon. Family flowers only.

FOXWELL - Lady Edith (née Lambart) died peacefully on March 31st. Mother of Zia and Atalanta and grandmother of Patrick, Valerio, Cesare and Tancredi and former wife of Ivan. Always her friend. A service will be held at Sherston for family and close friends.

GOODRIDGE - On March 29th at home, Frank aged 73, much loved husband, father and grandfather. We miss you.

GREGSELL - On 29th March 1996, peacefully at home, Rosemary, aged 81 years. Much loved Mother and Grandmother. Funeral Service at Brightling Church on Thursday 4th April at 12 noon. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to Brightling Church, c/o C. Waterhouse & Sons, High Street, Burwash, E. Sx. Tel: (01435) 882219.

HANSON - Sir Charles John Bt. on 30th March 1996 at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. Very dearly loved husband of Helen and father of Rupert and Bridget and stepfather of Clare. Private cremation. Thanksgiving Service to be announced later. Donations if desired to RNLI.

HOLMES - Wylam, Northumberland, peacefully in Stanley Burn House on 30th March in her 91st year, Florence Maria, dearly beloved wife of the late Arthur, dear sister of Millie, a loving aunt and sister-in-law. Friends please meet for service at St Oswin's Church, Wylam, on Thursday 4th April at 11 am prior to cremation at Mountsett Crematorium, Dipton. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu if desired to St Oswin's Church c/o The Vicarage, Wylam, Northumberland.

JENKINSON - Frances, Lady, widow of Sir Anthony Banks Jenkinson Bt., suddenly on 29th March in Grand Cayman.

KIRBY - John Thomas of Brentford died peacefully at Ealing Hospital on 27th March 1996. Funeral service at Mortlake Crematorium Thursday 4th April 3.30 pm. Family flowers only. All enquiries to Christopher Wickenden Funeral Services (0181) 569-6373.

LEE - Loret Kow Kee died peacefully on March 26th 1996 aged 60. Much loved by his family and friends.

MACDONALD - Hamish died peacefully on March 30th whilst on holiday after a short illness borne with great bravery and courage. Beloved husband of Jackie, son of Mary and Alastair, brother of Andrew, devoted father to Amelia and Callum. Funeral to be arranged, contact Tomalin & Sons Funeral Directors, 38 Reading Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire after 9th April for further details, tel: (01491) 573370. Family flowers only. Donations to MNDA c/o Tomalin & Sons.

McLARTY - Margaret Chalmers, peacefully at Lennox House N/H Lennox Row, Edinburgh, on March 28th, 1996. Dearly loved sister of Jean. Funeral Private. No flowers please.

O'BRIEN - Denis, formerly of Chagford, peacefully in the Marie Curie Hospice, Newcastle, on March 28th aged 85. Private funeral was held on Monday April 1st. Memorial Service to be held in Chagford, Devon, at a date to be announced.

PEARSON - Peacefully on March 29th 1996 in the loving care of the staff at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley, Brigadier Alastair Stevenson Pearson C.B., D.S.O.***, O.B.E., M.C., K.St.J., T.D., Keeper of Dumbarton Castle, former Lord Lieutenant of Dunbartonshire, beloved husband of the late Joan, very dear father of Jill, Clare and Fiona and much loved grandfather to Miles. Funeral Service in Jamestown Parish Church, Alexandria, on Wednesday 3rd April 2 pm. Interment thereafter at Kilmaronock Church, Gartocharn. No letters please; flowers welcomed and/or donations to Erskine Hospital.

PEARSON - Margaret Mary, born New Zealand 1907, died peacefully on 29th March 1996. Much loved aunt, great-aunt and godmother. She will be greatly missed by all her friends. Funeral at Putney Vale Crematorium, Thursday 11th April at 11am. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Princess Alice Hospice, Esher.

RAWLINSON - Lady Bess, Peacefully on March 30th at Mill House Nursing Home, Great Ryburgh, Norfolk, aged 95, loving mother of Anthony, *Sarah and* Andrew. Funeral Service at St Faiths Crematorium, Norwich on Thursday April 4th at 10.30 am. No flowers.

ROSE - On March 29th peacefully, Annie Gwendoline in her 94th year. Widow of Col. H.B. Rose M.C. The Wiltshire Regiment and H.K.V.D.C. Much loved mother of Pat, Grandmother of Anthony and Jeremy and Great-Grandmother of Louisa, Georgina and Carolina. Funeral Service at All Saints Church, Milford-on-Sea, Hants, on Wednesday April 10th at 11.30 am followed by interment. Family flowers only please. Enquiries to Diamond & Son Funeral *Directors, Lymington.* (01590) 672060.

SHEPHERD - On March 30th peacefully at home, Walter James aged 91. Devoted and beloved husband of Marjorie, father of Thelma, Roland and Paul, grandfather and great-grandfather. A private cremation will be held at the Guildford Crematorium at 1pm on Thursday 4th April 1996. No flowers, donations to Action Research For The Crippled Child. His Memorial Service will be held at 3pm on Friday 3rd May 1996 at St Mary's Church, Chiddingfold.

SHIELDS - On March 31st, Alan, son of Paul and the late Margot, died at the National Hospital, Queens Square. Cremation at the Beckenham Crematorium Tuesday April 9th at 12 o'clock. Family flowers only. Donations in memoriam, to R.S.P.B., The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL.

SPENCER - The Rev. Canon Bill peacefully in Tanzania - the country and the people that he loved and to whom he devoted 45 years of his life.

TETLEY - On Saturday 30th March 1996 at home in Lorton, near Cockermouth, Elizabeth (Liz), beloved wife of Derek and dear mother of Michelle and Garry. Funeral Service and interment at Lorton Church on Wednesday 3rd April at 2pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired for Hospice at Home c/o Mr N. Chicken Funeral Director, 39 Kirkgate, Cockermouth, Cumbria.

WILSON - Gladys Roxane née Stone (also known as Maréchal), the second daughter of the late Brigadier C.H. Stone O.B.E., M.C. and Bar, Royal Fusiliers, of London and the late Mrs M Harris of Leicester, died on Friday 29th March 1996, after a very long illness, cheerfully borne, comforted by the last sacraments of Our Holy Mother the Church. The ever adoring mother of Christiane, Tony and Julian and the loving grandmother of Nalyaz, Safalya, Dominic and Michael. Requiem Mass at the church of St Thomas More, Knighton Road, Leicester, today Tuesday 2nd April 1996 at 1.30 pm, followed by interment at Saffron Hill Cemetery, Stonesby Avenue, Leicester. R.I.P. All enquiries and flowers to A.C. James & Son, 9 Birkdale Street, Leicester tel: (01162) 542900.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

BOWDEN - The Requiem Mass for the late Reverend Frank James Bowden will take place on Holy Saturday April 6th at St John's Timberhill, Norwich at 2.30pm. Burial to take place in Devon at a later date. No flowers please, donations to Cancer Research or R.N.L.I. may be sent c/o Peter Taylor Funeral Services, 85 Unthank Road, Norwich, NR2 2PE.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

HARVEY - Brigadier "Roscoe" D.S.O. peacefully at home on March 28th 1996. Memorial Service St Edward's Church, Stow-on-the-Wold on Tuesday 23rd April at 2.30 pm. No flowers by request but donations for The Injured Jockeys Fund may be left at the Church or sent to W.J. Wright, Funeral Director, Well Lane, Stow-on-the-Wold, Cheltenham, Glos. GL54 1DG.

RICHTER - At a meeting held on 23rd March in the Royal Society of Medicine to commemorate the life and work of the late Derek Richter, formerly Director of the MRC Neuropsychiatry Unit, the speakers were Dr. Robert Balazs, Dr. Gerry Curzon, Dr. Norman Hadley, Major-General Robert Loudon, Professor Linford Rees CBE HonFRCPsych, Dr. Edward Reynolds, Dr. Henry Rollin HonFRCPsych and Professor Merton Sandler.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

ESTCOURT - George, beloved brother and uncle who died April 2nd 1995. Sadly missed.

OLDFIELD - Geoffrey Guy. We weren't allowed to say goodbye. Your love will never be forgotten. Bea.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

MANSFIELD - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Peter Mansfield will be held at St Stephen's Church, Gloucester Road, London SW7, on Thursday 9th May at 12 noon. Enquiries to (0171) 373-8414.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

MORTON:HARGREAVES - On April 2nd 1936 in Lahore Cathedral, Kenneth Valentine Freeland Morton and Mary Hadwin Hargreaves. Parents of Felicity, Kenneth, Alexander, William and James. Grandparents of Penelope, Andrew and Elizabeth, Kenneth, William and Alec, Alice, Isobel and Robert. Great-grandparents of Christina.

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هكذا من الأصل

OBITUARIES

CLAUDE MAURIAC

Claude Mauriac, writer and journalist, and eldest son of the novelist François Mauriac, died in Paris on March 22 aged 81. He was born there on April 25, 1914.

BORN into one of the most famous literary households in France, Claude Mauriac never fully escaped from the shadow of his illustrious father, one of the principal French novelists of this century. This was perhaps inevitable. In the beneficent aura of his father's prestige he had in the 1930s known the civilised delight of conversation with the leading spirits of Paris, before war shattered that ethos and called on literary men, like so many others, to give account of themselves. He nevertheless engaged himself with the Free French movement when the storm broke, and survived to establish a reputation of his own as a versatile and prolific writer.

As a novelist Mauriac has to be judged by the tetralogy *Le Dialogue intérieur*, whose second volume, *Le Dîner en ville*, won the 1959 Prix Médicis. This and its sequels are cast in the manner of the *nouveau roman*, as practised by Alain Robbe-Grillet and Michel Butor (younger men than he, but creative at an earlier age). Like their work, *Le Dialogue* dispenses with traditional realism and concentrates on states of mind and the manner in which objects are perceived from different standpoints and at different moments.

This experiment has its place in the history of modern French literature but it is not, perhaps, an enduring achievement. And Mauriac is best remembered for his 10,000-page, ten-volume diary, *Le Temps immobile*, a record of more than fifty years of French literary, artistic and political life. It is rich with portraits of the famous men and women he had known, first through his father and then as a journalist and writer himself.

Claude Mauriac was born in Paris, a great-nephew of Marcel Proust and of Edmond Rostand. Like Proust he was obsessed by the past. But he differed from the author of *A la recherche du temps perdu* in relying on coincidences and themes to prove that he had not changed, rather than attempting to record the past chronologically.

For the massive undertaking of *Le temps immobile*, which took him 18 years to complete between 1970 and 1988, he drew on hundreds of notebooks, the first of which dated back to his childhood when he was witness to the parade of famous literary figures — André Gide, Jean Cocteau, Marcel Jouhandeau and many others — all entertained at his father's table.

One volume of *Le Temps immobile*, devoted to General de Gaulle, was based on Mauriac's five years as the Free French leader's private secretary, from the period of his return to Paris and the first years of his self-imposed exile in Colombey-les-deux-Églises until 1949. He worshipped de Gaulle and the volume, entitled *Aimer de Gaulle*, was one of the most intimate portraits ever written of the man Mauriac called "the hero of the wonderful adventure lived by France". After leaving his post with de Gaulle he founded and edited the Gaullist review *Liberté de l'Esprit* for the four years of its life until the review closed in 1953.

Claude Mauriac was also devoted to his father, but did not share his fervent Roman Catholicism. Nor did he inherit his legendary and acerbic wit. Yet what he lacked in creative and intellectual power he made up for on the passionate conviction with which he espoused various social and political causes. Although a Gaullist, he marched side by side with left-wing writers such as Jean-Paul Sartre, Jean Genet and Michel Foucault. Among the causes to which he lent his fervour were anti-Vietnam protests, the *événements* of 1968, the plight of the Lebanese Christians, political opponents condemned to death by Franco and long-term prisoners in French jails.

Like his younger brother Jean, who became a political journalist with Agence France-Presse, Claude Mauriac attended one of the leading Parisian lycées, Janson-de-Sailly, and later obtained a law degree.

He published his first works just before the Second World War and wrote for the daily newspaper *Le Figaro* from 1938 to 1939. But his journalistic and literary career began essentially after the end of the war when he rejoined *Le Figaro*, where he stayed until 1977, and *Figaro Littéraire* for which he was film critic from 1947 until 1972. Later he worked both for the weekly *L'Express* and for *Le Monde*.

Claude Mauriac was always anxious not to benefit from his father's fame. His first novel *Toutes les femmes sont fatales* (tr. in America as *All Women Are Fatal* and in Britain as *Femmes Fatales*) was not published until 1957. It was to be the first of the *Dialogue intérieur* tetralogy. Like its successors, *Le Dîner en ville* (1959, tr. *Dinner in Town*), *La Marquise sortit à cinq heures* (1961, tr. *The Marquise went out at Five*) and *L'Agrandissement* (1963), it featured as its protagonist Betrand Carnéjoux, an egotist, novelist and irresistible yet cold-hearted womaniser, who enjoys hosting dinner parties whose guest lists comprise the women he has slept with, including his wife and her mother.

But, as such a description suggests, much of this sexual intriguing hovers perilously on the brink of the merely modish, and the combination of it and the tetralogy's parade of (largely bogus) psychological insights indicate a critical rather than a truly creative talent. Indeed, it was as a chronicler and critic that Mauriac was to make his most enduring contribution to French writing. Already, in 1958, he had published *La Littérature contemporaine*, a selection of essays which dealt with such familiar 20th-century figures as Kafka and Ionesco. This received an update and revision in 1969 which allowed readers to look in a new light upon such an unsung talent as Michel Leiris, whose reputation must now surely put in the shade those of many writers of merely ostentatious talent.

Then the huge project that was to become *Le Temps immobile* began to take shape. A volume was devoted to his father, another to Proust; this won the Prix Marcel Proust in 1988. Mauriac found time, nevertheless, to write four plays, literary criticism and further novels, and to complete a cycle of biographies that included works on Cocteau, André Malraux and Balzac. His *André Breton* won the 1949 Prix Sainte-Beuve.

Just as he had waited for de Gaulle's death before publishing the volume of *Le Temps immobile* which is devoted to him, so he decreed that a final volume, *Le Temps accompli*, should be published only after his own death.

An essentially kind man, Claude Mauriac had the air of an eternal adolescent and never lost his enthusiasm for supporting just causes and opposing oppression wherever he saw it. He was arrested and expelled from Spain in the 1970s for protesting against death sentences handed out to opponents of the Franco regime; and he became so involved at one time on behalf of General Michel Aoun, the Lebanese Christian leader, that he applied for Lebanese citizenship.

As a writer, he was never touched by the genius of his father, winner of the 1952 Nobel Prize for Literature, but was a highly talented all-rounder. He is survived by his wife Marie-Claude and by two sons and a daughter.

THE RIGHT REV LLOYD MORRELL

The Right Rev Lloyd Morrell, Bishop of Lewes, 1959-77, died on March 27 aged 88. He was born on August 12, 1907.

LLOYD MORRELL combined a deep spirituality with great practicality. He rejoiced in the highest ritual of Anglo-Catholicism, celebrating a pontifical High Mass in great style. At the same time he was a kindly and perceptive spiritual director to many priests and lay people. Few knew the churches and people of Sussex better than he did.

James Herbert Lloyd Morrell was educated at Dulwich College, going on from there to King's College London to read theology. His father, however, died when he had just started his course and from then on he had to support himself. It was a struggle even to get to theological college which, though, he managed to do — training for the ministry at Ely in time to be ordained at 24.

His grandfather had been churchwarden of St Michael's, Brighton, where he himself served his second curacy from 1936 to 1940. George Bell, then Bishop of Chichester, soon noticed the quality of his work and Morrell was freed from immediate parochial demands in order to become chaplain for work among men and boys. So good was he at this that he was soon in demand to share his insights with others. In 1941 was appointed lecturer for the Church of England's Moral Welfare Council.

In 1944 he moved to become vicar of Roffey, a village near Horsham, but Bell had other and more ambitious plans for him: in 1946 — only 15 years after his ordination and not yet 40 — Morrell was appointed Archdeacon of Lewes. The young archdeacon and his motorbike were soon a familiar sight all over East Sussex, with the former generally carrying a pair of binoculars slung around his neck, the better to inspect church towers and roofs. And it was usually Morrell who, off to an evening confirmation or institution up an unlit church path, turned out to be the one to pull a torch out of his pocket.

Morrell was an unassuming man. When he was appointed archdeacon he bought a small semi-detached house in Hove, which he shared with his sister Mary. Some expected that on his consecration as suffragan Bishop of Lewes in 1959 he would move to a grander dwelling, but he decided not to do so. In later years he recalled a Brighton bus conductor asking him where he was now going to live. "I'm going to go on living where I am," he replied. "In that same little house?" asked the conductor. And then, after a bit of thought, added: "You know, I think that's right. Bishops should be very splendid in church and just like everyone else out of it." "I thought," said Lloyd, "that that was a true word from God. I have always remembered it and tried to act on it."

Although he wrote several books, including the well-liked *A Priest's Notebook of Prayer* (1961), Morrell was no scholar. One of his disappointments was that he never had an opportunity for academic study. He was proud to have been elected a Fellow of King's College London in 1960.

But although he had been ordained with, for those days, virtually the minimum academic qualifications, he was rich in the attributes essential to his calling — in his case great personal piety and profound common sense, both brought together in a remark made of him at his retirement in 1977: "He has always been good at pointing out obvious truths which no one else has noticed."

After his retirement, Morrell retained his stall as canon and prebendary of Chichester Catherdal until 1982, at which time he also relinquished the duties, which he had first undertaken in 1961, as Provost of the southern division of the Woodward Schools. He remained unmarried.

ANNE FORD JOHNSON

Anne Ford Johnson, American hostess and first wife of Henry Ford II, died on March 29 aged 76. She was born on September 24, 1919.

ANNE FORD JOHNSON was married for 23 years to Henry Ford II, grandson of the founder of the motor company. The Fords made a handsome couple during the 1940s and 1950s in Detroit, where Anne Ford occupied a lofty position as patron of local opera and the arts. But her life with the extrovert industrialist was far from painless. Their marriage failed, very publicly, in the early 1960s, when Ford left his long-suffering wife for a headstrong Italian woman.

Anne Ford had married into the Ford dynasty with the full blessing of her husband's family. Anne McDonnell, as she was before her marriage, had been born in Rye, New York, one of 14 children of a wealthy Wall Street broker. She was brought up in a 29-room apartment on Fifth Avenue, and a summer mansion on Long Island, and educated at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Noroton, Connecticut, and at school in Sienna.

She first met her husband when she was returning from Europe in the late 1930s. Ford was then building a reputation as a hell-raiser, driving around Europe in a Lincoln Zephyr with friends, and visiting brothels. They seemed an incongruous couple to onlookers. She was a stylish blonde debutante, thin and self-possessed, with a coolness in her manner which those who knew her put down to shyness. He was warm and open-hearted but could be downright rude when he had been drinking too much (which was often). The Ford family hoped that the right woman might calm him down, and they were married in 1940, Ford switching from Methodism to Roman Catholicism in deference to his bride.

For some time Anne seemed to be having the desired effect. She made an instant impression on Ford's friends in Detroit at the first dinner party they gave. The guests sitting around the table were just about to start when Anne Ford bowed her head and said grace. Her husband, much to the assembled company's astonishment, appeared to join in with equal devotion.

Ford took over the reins of the family business from his grandfather in 1945, turning it round from the industrial cripple it had been — eccentrically run, losing money, and no match for General Motors — into the greatest producer of motor cars. Anne stood behind him throughout these successful years, helping him to build up a fine collection of art. It was said of them that, while he had the cheque book, she had the taste. This was not quite fair. Ford knew what he liked, and when his wife proudly presented him with a Holbein, which she had gone to some trouble to procure, Ford pronounced it ghastly and told her to send it back.

Ford's high-spiritedness started to resurface towards his early 40s. He once led a dance band through the shallow end of a swimming pool to the tune of *When the Saints Come Marching In*. Anne did not see the funny side of her husband's unruliness and would sometimes frogmarch him from parties.

Apart from her duties as a mother — the Fords had two daughters and a son — Anne was discovering a gift for organisation. She served on the White House Fine Arts Committee in the early 1960s and at home she supported the Detroit Institute of Art and the Metropolitan Opera Association of Detroit. During an evening which she was hosting for the Metropolitan Opera, one of the company congratulated Anne and hoped she would repeat the party the following year. "I hope not," Ford was heard to grumble. "This goddam opera is ruining my sex life." While some commentators thought that the thick-set Ford looked more like a butcher than a businessman, Anne was always immaculate. In 1956 she was voted one of the ten best dressed women in the world.

Anne Ford Johnson with Henry Ford II in London, 1956

The crisis point in their marriage came when Anne Ford overheard her husband on the telephone, promising a young woman — Cristina Austin — that he intended to marry her. Anne Ford tried to reason with her husband, and to effect a reconciliation. But several years later Ford finally left his wife for Mrs Austin, the stunning blonde Italian former wife of a British naval officer, whom he had met in Paris at a party given by Prince Rainier and Princess Grace. Anne Ford divorced her husband on the ground of "mental anguish" in 1964, her settlement reportedly running to many millions. Ford remarried the following year, but his second marriage also ended in divorce. He married thirdly, in 1980, Kathleen DuRoss.

Anne Ford showed extreme courage throughout the process of the break-up. Soon after her divorce, she was drinking coffee with a friend in a hotel in New York. Across the room she caught sight of Mrs Austin — whom she had never met but recognised from press photographs. She felt the civilised thing would be to go over and introduce herself, and this she did in the most cordial manner she could muster.

Anne McDonnell Ford herself remarried in 1968. Her second husband was Deane Johnson, a Los Angeles lawyer. It was a happy and stable marriage, and Anne moved to Los Angeles, where she resumed the serious business of giving parties. Her extensive knowledge of French furniture was put to use by Christie's, to whom she acted as a West Coast representative, and, when she returned to New York in 1980, by Sotheby's.

She is survived by her second husband, and by the two daughters and son from her first marriage.

PERSONAL COLUMN

TICKETS FOR SALE

TICKETS FOR SALE
When responding to advertisements readers are advised to establish the face value and full details of tickets before entering into any commitment. Most sports tickets are subject to strict re-sale and transfer rules.

TICKETS (Bought & Sold)
Wimbledon 96
Royal Ascot
Phantom, Oliver, Saigon, Oasis, 3 Tenors, Eagles, T. Turner, B. Springsteen Neil Diamond, Bon Jovi
Any Ticket obtained.
0171 488-4414

TICKETS ALL AVAIL:
Phantom, all theatre, Eagles, B. Springsteen, B Adams,all sport
0171 480 6183

TICKETS
EAGLES, OASIS, TINA TURNER, BON JOVI, BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN, NEIL DIAMOND, HEATHCLIFF, TOMMY, PHANTOM, SUNSET, WIMBLEDON 96, PILKINGTON CUP, RUGBY LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP, ROYAL ASCOT, ALL POP, THEATRE & SPORTING EVENTS
TEL: 0171 323 4480
Gt Portland Associates

SUMMER 96
Wimbledon Debs
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all theatre, pop and sports
0171 357 9988
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ALL TICKETS Phantom, cricket, Wimbledon, B. Springsteen, Oasis, Eagles, T. Turner. All major pop, sport & theatre. CC's accpt. 0171 925 0085

ALL TICKETS Oasis, Springsteen etc. Phantom, Les Mis etc. Ascot, Cricket & more 0171 930 8898 F: 3694

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We obtain the unobtainable
0171 403 8555
All CC's, Free Delivery

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE SUPPORT ANIMALS IN NEED
We provide a lifeline to over 3,000 animal casualties each year. Compassion and care alone will not feed them this winter.
Please help by sending a donation to:-
Burstow Wildlife Sanctuary, (Dept TM), Church Lane, BURSTOW, Surrey, RH6 9TG

Court & Social Page
Over the Easter period the following deadline will apply:
All notices to appear on Friday April 5; Saturday April 6; Monday April 8; Tuesday April 9 must be received in writing by 5pm on Wednesday April 3.
All notices are accepted subject to confirmation.
Tel: 0171 782 7347 Fax 0171 481 9313

THE RAF RISES TO THE CHALLENGE
From 1919 the Fund has been helping RAF members, their widows and children including many thousands disabled during and since the last war: and today, wherever conflict arises.
Every year approximately £10 million is spent in assisting some 20,000 cases. Please help with a donation or remember us in your Will.
Will you rise to the challenge, too?
THE ROYAL AIR FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND
DEPT. TT, 67 PORTLAND PLACE, LONDON W1N 4AR.

WINTER SPORTS

WEEKEND Skiing. Depart any day for any number of days. White Roc Ski 0171 792 1188

ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUNG CHELSEA BRIDGE club and school (18-40 age group). Tel: 071-373 3665

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAB ANIMALS NEED YOUR HELP!
The little monkey pictured here is beyond help. What was left of him after the "researchers" were through has long been incinerated, along with the remains of countless other innocent victims of the vivisection laboratory.
Rapidly declining human health; degradation of the environment, and incalculable animal suffering. Your help is needed to bring about change.
For further information please contact the
British Anti-Vivisection Association, PO Box 82, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 1YF.
DONATIONS DESPERATELY NEEDED AND GENEROUSLY RECEIVED

Remember The Donkeys And We'll Remember You!
Over 6,700 donkeys have been taken into care many from lives tormented by cruelty and neglect. A donkey is never turned away from our Sanctuary and never put down unless there is no longer any quality of life.
We need your help to continue rescuing donkeys and to secure their future on one of our nine farms. A bequest to the donkeys will help immensely and your name will be inscribed on our Memory Wall and will be blessed at our annual St Francis Day Memorial Service.
A copy of our "Guide to Making a Will" is available on request.
The Donkey Sanctuary, (Dept TM), Sidmouth, Devon, EX10 0NU.
Tel: (01395) 578222
Enquiries to Dr E. D. Svendsen, MBE
Reg. Charity No. 264818

ON THIS DAY

April 2, 1931

Because the paper did not come out on Good Friday, this first leading article appeared the day before.

THE DAY OF THE CROSS

The temper of the age and the mood in which the majority of thoughtful people now find themselves should go far to rescue Good Friday from risk of neglect. Only obtuse self-satisfaction could ignore its significance, and, whatever our modern faults, we have so far shed complacency that today we are in danger more of despair than of undue elation. And if we continue to differ about the cure for our public ills, we are increasingly agreed about the nature of the ills to be cured. They are not, as once men were apt to suppose, mere troubles of the surface — economic, social, or political derangements, for which economic, social or political remedies might prove adequate. They lie deeper and belong to the province of the spirit. Suspicion, jealousy, rancour and hate are the real evils, the chief hindrances to a happier and better-ordered world. Ignorance and thoughtlessness rather than conscious irreverence are responsible no doubt for that misuse of Good Friday which is still too widespread. Yet in recent years there has been some distinct improvement, which will grow rapidly in proportion as the English people are helped to regain their knowledge of Christ. By that they will be swayed as they are unlikely to be by any indirect methods, and Good Friday will be kept rightly when they respond not to the annual appeal of a committee, but to the perennial appeal of the Crucified.

It is fair to add that the popular disregard of Good Friday services may be due in part to the ecclesiastical custom of treating the day not merely as one of great solemnity, which it is, but of overwhelming sadness, which it is not. Few characteristics of the New Testament are more remarkable than the triumphant exultation with which one writer after another speaks of the Cross. They might have been expected to view it with shuddering horror; to treat it as a hideous memory to be revived in the fewest possible words as a prelude to the triumphant story of the Resurrection. St Paul contemplates the Event of Good Friday with passionate exultation rather than with funereal sadness. He magnifies the cross and proclaims it as the central truth of the Gospel which is to save the world. It is scarcely necessary to insist upon the contrast between this attitude and that of some types of pietism. We offer the world a strange perversion of the Christian faith when we exchange glorying in the Cross for sadness, and observe the day which commemorates our redemption by filling our churches with sounds of "mourning, lamentation and woe."

Luton man's perseverance pays as his unchanged team scoop £500 monthly prize

Conway calls the tune as rivals ring the changes

The problem with change is that you can have too much of a good thing. Certainly, transfers help in the race for the £50,000 prize, but some *Interactive Team Football* (ITF) managers have gone transfer-daft. They heave players in and out of the side with every whim. Is it an FA Cup week? Quick, re-organise the midfield. Is there an R in the month? Time to change the strikers. And if it is Tuesday, it *must be the full backs.*

But Rob Conway from Luton has no truck with such behaviour. His first choice XI, Lewsey Farm, has remained the same since the first kick of the season and finally his loyalty has paid off. Last month he amassed 134 points to win the £500 manager of the month award for March.

Of course, his initial choice always looked to have promise. The team was built around Liverpool, Manchester United, Everton and Aston Villa — all sides with considerable reputations. And, barring one or two exceptions, they have all been earning points solidly throughout the season.

Like many managers, Mr Conway was caught out at the start of the season by Alan Stubbs — who would buy him? How would he do? Where would he go? Unfortunately, Stubbs stayed at Bolton and Bolton stayed rooted near the bottom of the table. As a result he has earned Lewsey Farm a meagre 15 points, but the rest of the side have more than made up for that with six men breaking the 50-point barrier.

The top scorer is Mark Draper with 57 points and, together with Milosevic, he forms the most productive club partnership in the side. Working in tandem with Jones and James from Liverpool, they have been the backbone of the team's success, earning 210 points between them since the end of August.

Mr Conway decided to spend carefully on his strikers, laying out a frugal £8 million for two men. It is the sort of expediture that would buy you one Robbie Fowler or part of an Alan Shearer, but Mr Conway's combination of Milosevic and Hughes has gained him more points than either of the two big money individuals.

So far Lewsey Farm has racked up 521 points, enough to place the team in 141st position overall. However, there is still a long way to go in the Premiership and so far Mr Conway's boys have done him proud with no need for change. As the saying goes: If it ain't broke, don't mend it.

If your team could be doing better, with your players lacking form and fitness, you can move into the transfer market to improve your fortunes. ITF has a transfer system that allows you to change up to two players each week. Which player you want to offload and who you replace him with is up to you, although you must replace the outgoing player with one from the same category (ie, a full back with a full back) and keep within your £35 million budget.

The ITF transfer system also allows you to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership. He would then no longer be eligible for ITF and would have to be replaced.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the **0891 333 331** line during the times given. Calls will be charged at 39 pence per minute cheap rate, 49 pence per minute at other times. If you are calling from Ireland, you must call **004 499 020 0631** and you will be charged at 58 pence per minute at all times.

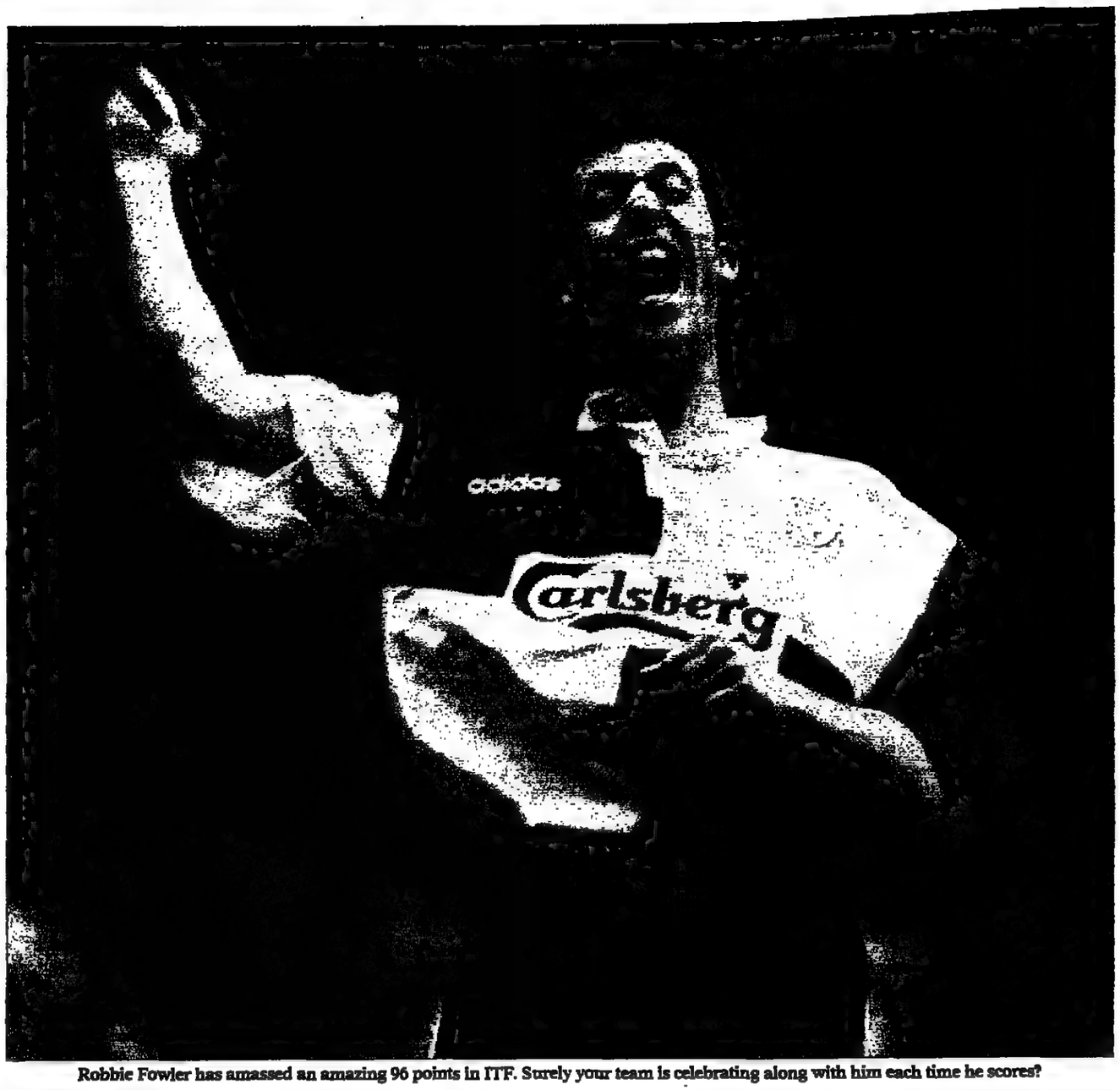
When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the £50,000 prize or the monthly £500 prizes.

With ITF, not only are you pitting your selectorial skills against other readers of *The Times*, you are also matching your wits against those in the know. With the support of the Professional Footballers' Association, Premiership players have entered sides of their own, and on the oppposite page is a look at the standings in a league formed by their teams.

All matches in the Premiership and those in the FA Cup involving Premiership clubs count and your players and manager win *and* lose you points. With Jones Boys Six setting the pace, is it time for you to delve into the transfer market?

☐ ***All transfer queries regarding Interactive Team Football should be directed to 0171 757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01582 488 122.***



Robbie Fowler has amassed an amazing 96 points in ITF. Surely your team is celebrating along with him each time he scores?

THE WEEK'S TRANSFERS IN ITF

Code	Player	Club	Value
IN			
12003	G Ward	Bolton	£0.5m
20104	G Croft	Blackburn	£1.5m
40113	G Flitcroft	Blackburn	£2.5m
51707	M Kavelasvifa	Man City	£1.0m
OUT			
41601	P Cook	Coventry	£2.0m
41701	G Flitcroft	Man City	£2.5m
50802	B Allen	QPR	£1.5m

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All FA Carling Premiership and FA Cup matches in the 1995-6 season count for points. Every goal and penalty counts

POINTS SCORED

Goalkeeper	
Keeps clean sheet*	4pts
Scores goal	3pts
Full back/Central defender	
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts
Scores goal	3pts
Midfield player	
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt
Scores goal	2pts
Striker	
Scores goal	2pts
All players	
Appearance†	1pt
Manager	
Team wins	3pts
Team draws	1pt

POINTS DEDUCTED

Goalkeeper	
Concedes goal	2pts
Full back/Central defender	
Concedes goal	1pt
All players	
Sent off	3pts
Booked	1pt
Concedes penalty	1pt
Misses penalty	1pt
Scores own goal	1pt
Manager	
Team loses	1pt

* must have played for 75 minutes in the match
† must have played for 45 minutes in the match

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 333 331

Calls cost (per minute) 39p cheap rate, 49p other times. Rep. 58p

If calling from the Republic of Ireland, call 004 499 020 0631

You can make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector's PIN, which must be tapped in and not spoken. Follow the simple instructions and use the players' five-digit codes.

The line is open from 6am on Tuesday until 11am on Saturday; from 6pm on Saturday to 11am on Sunday and from 6pm on Sunday until 3pm on Monday. If there are midweek matches, the lines will also close at 3pm on the day of the match (or matches) and re-open the following day at 6am.

You may make up to (but no more than) two transfers a week. Each transfer is a separate transaction and you must sell a player before you can buy one.

A player transferred out of your team must be replaced by a player from the same category - for example a full back for a full back.

When purchasing a player you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget (even if your next transfer would rectify any overspending) and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The score of the player transferred out is taken at the time of transfer; he then ceases to score for you.

Player out ..... Player code
Club .....
Player in .....
Club .....

THE LEADING 250 SELECTORS IN INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Jones Boys Six	(M Jones)	629
2	Gohlis Gods 65	(B Gohil)	615
3	Jones Boys Four	(L Jones)	596
4	Laytons Lions	(R Layton)	588
4	Short And Stubbs	(K Booth)	588
6	Langton Longshots	(J Ward)	579
7	Fair Fair Flapster	(C Woodward)	578
7	Apollo 2	(S Lazarides)	578
9	Nigels Right Foot	(D Patel)	575
10	Kisspurs Five	(E Kisby)	574
11	Phayco And Smither	(K Booth)	572
12	Jessicas Darlings 4	(A Nadison)	570
13	KP Fantasy Team 4	(K Patel)	569
13	Tommy Cockles XI	(P Johnson)	569
15	Burwell United	(R Banham)	568
15	County Pine A	(J Hunt)	568
17	Percys Progress	(M Persich)	567
17	Estuary	(P Giles)	567
17	Teddy Five	(B Bare)	567
20	Nobby One	(A Brown)	562
20	Sharon's Buds	(D Conroy)	562
22	A	(M Corless)	561
23	Tonys All Stars	(A Boyland)	560
24	Shrew Voles	(H Brasher)	558
25	Ormy Stars	(D Gornall)	557
25	Cameron Athan	(J Reader)	557
25	Adams Man Or God 4	(R Pike)	557
28	Steves Lions 6	(S Brewer)	556
28	———	(J Nicholl)	556
30	Jeggy Thistle	(J Bruce)	555
30	Sams All Stars	(J Allen)	555
32	Hadlow Rovers	(P Bennion)	554
33	Turners Earners 2	(P Turner)	553
34	Paron United	(A Hewitt)	552
34	Jordans XI	(P Barnard)	552
36	Bumzy's Babes	(T Burns)	551
36	Aidrie	(A Ford)	551
38	Nobby Nat	(A Brown)	550
38	Reggie's Reds	(J Bridge)	550
38	Eggs N'Ham	(D Warner)	550
41	Rescue City 2	(J Sanderson)	549
42	Vesuvio	(G Batchelor)	548
43	Minerva FC	(J Donovan)	547
44	Strangers	(G Banks)	546
44	Russell 3	(D Shuter)	546
46	The Living Dead	(T Steckin)	544
46	Nadar	(A Neviszsky)	544
46	The Good Bad & Ugly	(K Booth)	544
46	Points Make Prizes	(D Chopping)	544
50	Sensible City	(G Cole)	543
50	The Likely Lads	(G Pedder)	543
50	Purple Sunflowers	(N Rickard)	543
50	Top Heavy?	(P Young)	543
50	Albemarle Town	(I Hedges)	543
50	Turners Earners	(P Turner)	543
56	Pursell Rangers	(F Macdonald Pursell)	542
56	Don Shuter C	(D Shuter)	542
56	Dwayns Dribblers	(A Philcox)	542
56	DM 004	(D McGregor)	542
60	March Pass	(M McGovern)	541
60	DDH 2	(M Corless)	541
60	The Locksters	(D Lock)	541
63	Formby Flyers	(A Norton)	540
63	DM 003	(D McGregor)	540
65	Rosies Supers	(P Sutton)	539
65	Steves Lions 5	(S Brewer)	539
65	Weetabix Utd 3	(D Smith)	539
65	Platty Rovers	(I Platt)	539
69	Commuting Eleven	(B Evans)	538
70	Metro Utd	(J Sanderson)	537
70	Justintime	(A Kent)	537
72	Dun Elm Saints	(J Doyle)	536
73	Norman	(T Sigsworth)	536
73	Monster Monster	(M Parish)	535
73	Who Needs Mark	(N Persich)	535
73	Wotmuchearer	(K Booth)	535
77	Jesmond 1860	(S Murray)	534
77	Tiw Wee Ore Too	(A Nelson)	534
77	Burtic Thistles	(C Nicol)	534
77	Partick Thistle	(C Nicol)	534
77	Clares Ducks	(T Collier)	534
77	DM 001	(D McGregor)	534
83	The Mind Boogies	(P McDowall)	533
83	Eleven For Nork	(P Gubala)	533
83	110 Percent	(M C Doherty)	533
86	———	(———)	532
86	Nats Lions	(N Brewer)	532
86	Doug's Desperados	(D Richardson)	532
86	Good Times United	(T Stableford)	532
86	Chip N' Dale XI	(Mrs E Arrowsmith)	532
86	Bubwith Utd	(M Larkham)	532
92	Built Around Les	(J Pregon)	531
92	Wallace & Gromit FC	(S Hyams)	531
94	Davns Lisbon Lions	(D Strachan)	530
94	Quinton Forest	(J Baker)	530
94	Steves Lions 8	(S Brewer)	530
94	Pig In A Poke	(J Wilson)	530
94	Gohlis Gods 73	(B Gohil)	530
99	Long Drive	(I Parker)	529
99	Steves Lions 1	(S Brewer)	529
99	Kisspurs Two	(E Kisby)	529
102	A Total Flop	(D Thandi)	528
102	St Remy Strikers	(G Dabnor)	528
102	Das Boot	(D Sutton)	528
102	Journeymen	(A Jordan)	528
102	Carling XI	(P Parke)	528
102	Torr's Tormentors	(B Torr)	528
108	Bon Accord	(I Kelson)	527
108	Bashful Banions	(C Alavoine)	527
108	Wildebeest	(J Albertsen)	527
108	Merson The Person	(S Blane)	527
112	Wannabee Stars	(A P Harris)	526
112	S Express FC	(S O'Toole)	526
112	Partizan Beograd I	(D Stojkovic)	526
112	Jacobookie FC	(A P Jacobucci)	526
112	No Sam Today	(N Webb)	526
112	Rainbow Connection	(G Weiss)	526
112	Francis Caldwell FC	(F Caldwell)	526
119	The Untouchables	(V Beehanie)	525
119	Sky Blue Royles	(R G Foster)	525
119	Bert Trautmann XI	(M Podeur)	525
119	Fergies Fury	(P Simpson)	525
123	Le Socks	(I Aldous)	524
123	Warren Wizards	(J Buckle)	524
123	Old Turf	(J Ratcliffe)	524
126	No Fear Utd	(G Saunders)	523
126	———	(N Thompson)	523
126	Evans Men	(W Doyle)	523
129	Wimps Utd	(A Heath)	522
129	Steve's Scorers	(S Tinkler)	522
129	Aberspurs	(G Shand)	522
129	The Magicians	(A Creegan)	522
129	Gibbins Terry Mark	(TM Gibbins)	522
129	Rijkaard's Rebels	(A Targett)	522
129	The Dream Team	(C Farrell)	522
129	West Ham Alliance	(P Cook)	522
129	Palm Bay XI	(R Hall)	522
129	Dour Rangers	(I Clayton)	522
129	County Pine O	(J Hunt)	522
140	Upum	(S Kavanagh)	521
140	Stignig Utd	(S Gorse)	521
140	Bijou	(M Minasian)	521
140	Steves Lions 2	(S Brewer)	521
140	Lewsey Farm	(R Conway)	521
140	The Mighty Dunston	(Dr Hall)	521
140	Boing Boing Baggy	(T Horne)	521
140	Kisspurs Three	(E J Kisby)	521
140	DM 002	(D McGregor)	521
140	Nippers	(K Hughes)	521
150	Hells Angels	(H Thompson)	520
150	JRFC 3	(J J Rolf)	520
150	Steves Lions 7	(S Brewer)	520
150	Harrington Inter	(D Lovell)	520
150	Trelleick Town	(M Philips)	520
150	The 2 Uflies	(M Forde)	520
150	Victoria Vandals	(D Gunter)	520
157	Twlghlight United	(P C Dilworth)	519
157	Alsean Dynamoes	(A Hill)	519
157	Street FC	(S Bartlett)	519
157	Tilehurst Tornados	(D Chamberlain)	519
157	Sullies Golden Players	(G Sullivan)	519
157	The Gentlemen	(D Grassick)	519
163	The Sinking Ship	(T Blythe)	518
163	Damon Stones FC	(P McCauley)	518
163	New Babes Eleven	(I Godwin)	518
163	Death Or Glory	(A T Davies)	518
163	Bill's Best Pirates	(D Butlin)	518
163	Triple Peelers	(J B Portwood)	518
163	Donnay's Dream	(H Matthews)	518
170	Red Star Richmond	(S T Glanville)	517
170	Stu's Dirty Dozen	(S House)	517
170	Eddie's Eagles	(E Woods)	517
170	Skunk City	(M Franks)	517
170	Seldom United	(T Armitage)	517
170	Bal's Team	(B Ghuman)	517
170	Robbos Rangers	(R Robinson)	517
177	Goal Diggers	(C Stacey)	516
177	Headstar	(I Stokes)	516
177	Nokia Rangers	(A G W Whyte)	516
177	Totteridge United	(D Seal)	516
177	Rempstone Rovers	(N A Woodroffe)	516
177	Northbank Cardigan	(S Smith)	516
177	The Fifty Granders	(R N Smith)	516
177	The Black Knights	(R A Green)	516
177	Its A Mugs Game	(K Booth)	516
177	———	(———)	516
177	Cantona Is God	(B Harrison)	516
188	Scol Utd	(B Scollick)	515
188	Roefull Rabbits	(J Whateley)	515
188	Only Can Saver	(M McKeown)	515
188	The Select Few	(S Davison)	515
188	Platypus United	(Ms Allison)	515
188	The Rockers	(N Wheatley)	515
188	Northern Nashers	(P Sansom)	515
188	Arabest	(G Howitt)	515
188	Egerton Park	(D Rhoades)	515
188	———	(M Corless)	515
196	Headless Chicken	(B Norris)	514
196	Goals Guaranteed	(B Gordon)	514
196	Stanmore Strikers	(D Aldous)	514
196	Enfield Reserves	(N Cantwell)	514
196	Merts Males 20	(M Hifzi)	514
196	Real Madras FC 2nd	(P Bradley)	514
196	Andrew's Allsters	(A Suggitt)	514
196	Racing Club Hanwel	(G Williams)	514
196	Hancu	(G Bahdjejian)	514
207	County Pine L	(J Hunt)	513
207	Andys Elites	(A Poole)	513
207	No Defence Ok	(J B Portwood)	513
207	Randy Ravers	(F Phillips)	513
207	Tour De Force	(C Cuffaz)	513
207	Overhill Rovers	(M James)	513
213	The Young Guns	(B Shepherd)	512
213	Phantoms	(A Fenney)	512
213	Clean Sheet XI	(I Rawlinson-Smith)	512
213	Lemonias	(P Gregoriou)	512
213	J K's Dolphins	(J F Kitchen)	512
213	Whatagoal Utd	(A Hughes)	512
213	Joe Royles Wink 3	(T Gammage)	512
213	Orbital Brushes	(S Brocorn)	512
213	Lario Best Eleven	(L Giuliani)	512
213	I Hate Football	(E Lam)	512
223	Wells S Wonder	(A Wells)	511
223	JRFC 17	(J J Rolf)	511
223	Jon Beeneys Donner	(J Parkinson)	511
223	Seven Kings FC	(S Siddiqui)	511
223	The Conjurers	(D J Farmer)	511
223	QPR Auctioneers A	(S Kempher)	511
223	Pallisters Army	(J Pregon)	511
223	Abergavenny Rovers	(S Smith)	511
223	Inter Adagio	(S Slade)	511
223	Teltown	(T Wood)	511
223	Kisspurs Four	(E J Kisby)	511
223	Richardsons Rubies	(J Richardson)	511
223	APD FC	(P Dowding)	511
236	Courars	(A Keighley)	510
236	The Doug Hutches	(M Stacey)	510
236	Yarm XI	(J Rogers)	510
236	Eddens Engineers	(R Edden)	510
236	Team Tobias	(P Tobias)	510
236	Tommy's Tuckers	(T Phillips-Brynolf)	510
236	Jontbrll 3	(J Grinsell)	510
236	Razor's Raiders	(R A Knowles)	510
236	Emmy Bee	(E Burkinsher)	510
236	Partick Thistle 4	(C Nicol)	510
236	Strawberry Dynamo	(D Ball)	510
247	Gazzas Idiots	(A Roberts)	509
247	Kims Kickers	(G Sutton)	509
247	———	(———)	509
247	Chick0	(S Tahvili)	509

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING

Calls cost (per minute) 39p cheap rate, 49p other times. Rep. 58p

Call the ITF checkline on **0891 774 796**

Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. The line is open from noon today

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The players' overall and weekly scores and their values if you are considering the transfer option

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
10101	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	-5	-11
10102	B Mimms	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	-1
10201	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	-1	+39
10203	A Coton	Manchester United	2.50	0	0
10301	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	-1	-20
10302	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	0
10303	A Fettis	Nottingham Forest	1.50	0	0
10401	D James	Liverpool	3.50	+5	+53
10402	A Warner	Liverpool	0.25	0	0
10501	J Lukic	Leeds United	3.00	-1	-9
10502	M Beeney	Leeds United	0.75	0	-9
10601	P Smicek	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+2
10602	M Hooper	Newcastle United	1.00	0	0
10603	S Hislop	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+4
10701	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-1	+5
10702	E Thorstvedt	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	0
10801	A Roberts	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-7
10802	S Dykstra	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0	0
10803	J Sommer	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	+5	-43
10901	H Segers	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-7
10902	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	0.75	+5	-22
10903	P Heald	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-38
11001	B Grobbelaar	Southampton	1.50	0	0
11002	D Beasant	Southampton	0.75	0	-27
11101	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	0	+8
11102	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	1.00	-3	-12
11201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	0	+30
11202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.50	0	0
11301	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-41
11302	C Woods	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-6
11401	L Miklosko	West Ham United	2.50	0	-11
11402	L Sealey	West Ham United	0.50	0	-5
11501	N Southall	Everton	2.50	+5	-3
11502	J Kearton	Everton	0.75	0	0
11601	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	-6	-38
11602	J Gould	Coventry City	0.75	0	0
11603	J Filan	Coventry City	1.50	0	-35
11702	A Dibble	Manchester City	2.50	0	0
11703	E Immel	Manchester City	2.00	-1	-36
11801	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	2.50	-5	+30
11803	M Oakes	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0
11901	A Miller	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+3
11902	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	0.75	+5	-12
12001	K Branagan	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	-68
12002	A Davison	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	-6

FULL BACKS

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
20101	H Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	-2	+20
20102	G Le Saux	Blackburn Rovers	4.50	0	+3
20103	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	-2	+29
20201	D Irwin	Manchester United	4.50	0	+38
20202	P Parker	Manchester United	2.50	0	+1
20203	G Neville	Manchester United	2.50	0	+22
20204	P Neville	Manchester United	0.75	0	+36
20301	S Pearce	Nottingham Forest	4.50	0	+30
20302	D Lyttle	Nottingham Forest	3.00	0	+21
20303	A Haaland	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	-13
20401	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00	+4	+56
20402	S Bjornebye	Liverpool	3.00	0	+4
20403	S Harkness	Liverpool	0.75	0	+30
20501	T Dorigo	Leeds United	3.50	0	+15
20502	G Kelly	Leeds United	3.00	0	+19
20503	N Worthington	Leeds United	1.50	0	-4
20601	J Beresford	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+15
20603	W Barton	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+24
20701	D Austin	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-1	+13
20702	J Edinburgh	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0	+3
20703	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0	+39
20704	D Kerslake	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	0
20705	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+20
20801	D Bardsley	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	+3	-11
20802	R Brevett	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	+6	-2
20803	N Zelic	Queens Park Rangers	2.50	0	-3
20804	T Challis	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0	-1
20901	A Kimble	Wimbledon	2.50	+4	-4
20902	G Elkins	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-8
20903	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	1.50	+3	-18
20904	R Joseph	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
21001	J Dodd	Southampton	1.50	+4	+15
21002	F Benali	Southampton	1.00	-1	+2
21003	S Charlton	Southampton	1.00	+1	+8
21101	S Clarke	Chelsea	1.50	0	+11
21102	S Minto	Chelsea	1.50	0	+3
21104	A Myers	Chelsea	0.50	-2	+13
21105	T Phelan	Chelsea	1.50	-1	+6
21106	D Petrescu	Chelsea	2.50	0	+22
21201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	0	+48
21202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	0	+46
21203	S Morrow	Arsenal	1.50	0	+4
21302	I Nolan	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-9
21303	P Atherton	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-17
21304	D Stefanovic	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-4
21401	J Dicks	West Ham United	3.50	0	+19
21402	T Breacker	West Ham United	3.00	0	-9
21403	K Brown	West Ham United	0.75	0	+3
21404	K Rowland	West Ham United	0.75	0	+16
21501	G Ablett	Everton	2.50	0	+10
21502	E Barrett	Everton	2.50	0	+4
21503	M Jackson	Everton	1.50	0	+11
21506	M Hottiger	Everton	3.00	+4	-1
21601	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.50	-2	-3
21602	A Pickering	Coventry City	1.00	0	+1
21603	S Morgan	Coventry City	0.75	0	0
21604	M Hall	Coventry City	0.75	0	-23
21702	R Edghill	Manchester City	1.50	0	-1
21704	J Foster	Manchester City	0.75	0	-1
21706	M Frontzeck	Manchester City	1.50	0	-10
21801	G Charles	Aston Villa	2.50	-3	+43
21802	S Staunton	Aston Villa	4.50	-1	+13
21803	A Wright	Aston Villa	2.50	-2	+53
21804	P King	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0
21901	C Blackmore	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	-7
21902	N Cox	Middlesbrough	1.00	+4	+25
21903	C Morris	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	+16
21904	C Fleming	Middlesbrough	0.50	+4	+3
21905	Branco	Middlesborough	2.50	0	0
22001	G Bergsson	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	-6
22002	S Greerr	Bolton Wanderers	0.25	0	-9
22003	J Phillips	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	-16
22004	A Todd	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	-6
22005	S McAnespie	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	+1
22006	B Small	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0

CENTRAL DEFENDERS

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
30101	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.50	0	+25
30102	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	+3
30103	N Marker	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	-1	+5
30104	A Reed	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0	0
30105	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	-3	+16
30201	S Bruce	Manchester United	4.50	0	+47
30202	G Pallister	Manchester United	4.50	0	+27
30203	D May	Manchester United	1.50	0	+10
30301	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.50	0	+26
30302	S Chettle	Nottingham Forest	3.00	0	+13
30401	P Babb	Liverpool	3.00	0	+38
30402	N Ruddock	Liverpool	3.50	+4	+39
30403	J Scales	Liverpool	3.50	+4	+39
30404	M Wright	Liverpool	1.00	+3	+47
30405	D Matteo	Liverpool	0.75	0	+4
30501	D Wetherall	Leeds United	3.50	0	+20
30502	C Palmer	Leeds United	3.00	0	+15
30503	J Pemberton	Leeds United	1.50	-1	-7
30505	P Beesley	Leeds United	1.00	0	+13
30506	R Jobson	Leeds United	1.50	0	+3
30601	P Albert	Newcastle United	4.00	0	+24
30602	S Howey	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+28
30603	D Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+20
30701	G Mabbutt	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+33
30702	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+26
30703	S Nethercott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	-1	-4
30704	K Scott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	0	0
30705	J Cundy	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0
30801	D Maddix	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-13

Stuart Pearce's fourth-placed team, Rattus Norvegicus, needs to improve its record to take a stranglehold on the game

STANDINGS IN THE PFA INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Danish Dynamite	(J Molby)	454	38	Fast Attack	(D Lee)	316
2	West Shambles Utd	(S Webster)	405	39	T B's XI	(D Wise)	314
3	Nash FC	(M Powell)	393	40	Silver Band Club XI	(T Blake)	313
4	Rattus Norvegicus	(S Pearce)	380	41	Goochies	(N Southall)	309
4	Teds XI	(B Horne)	380	42	Elly's Eggs	(R Elliott)	307
6	Macs Moodles	(A McDonald)	375	42	Squark Hubbas	(D Dichio)	307
7	Dred Select	(S Morgan)	372	44	The True Vikings	(S Bjornebye)	304
8	Cadburys Buzz	(D Busst)	370	44	Pedro's Pearls	(P Beardsley)	304
9	The Ruff Necks	(R Fox)	361	46	Fergies Flyers	(D Ferguson)	303
9	J C's Superstars	(S Clarke)	361	47	Sheffield City FC	(C Tiler)	301
11	Southcote Old Boys	(M Allen)	360	48	Sabs Eleven	(S Bould)	300
12	The Moody Blues	(N Spackman)	357	49	Hitchys XI	(K Hitchcock)	298
13	Dodgy Barnets Eleven	(J Beresford)	355	50	Tallaght Town	(G O'Toole)	294
14	Poelvo	(M Kennedy)	353	51	Complete Madness	(S Chettle)	287
15	J & F FC	(J Beresford)	352	52	Mine Mine United	(S Hodge)	286
15	Mbf's	(D Peacock)	352	53	Sheep in White Socks	(D Phillips)	285
17	The Bluenoses	(J Spencer)	350	54	The Flair Boys	(L Clark)	284
17	Whittys Winners	(S Whittaker)	350	55	Smokin Cigars	(N Zelic)	274
19	The Travellers	(L Hurst)	349	56	Keepers Greapers	(S Ogrizovic)	266
20	The Feb 12	(F Detreitas)	346	57	Goalies 11	(D Seaman)	265
21	Fantasina	(D Platt)	344	57	Teflon Town	(K Branagan)	265
22	The Crazy Boys	(N McDonald)	343	59	Pie Men	(J Parkinson)	263
23	Ryton Raiders	(G Gillespie)	341	60	Smart Team	(J Gould)	259
24	Pure Silk	(T Sinclair)	340	60	Lifes A Pitch	(B Marwood)	259
25	Bolldock Toon	(S Stone)	337	62	Kit & Kaboodle	(J Moncur)	255
26	Bruces Bonus	(A Hinchcliffe)	335	62	Gemmas Gems	(G Strachan)	255
27	Barkers Follies	(S Barker)	332	64	Kirkby Krunchers	(A Stubbs)	254
28	Quango Utd	(B Borrows)	330	65	The Lepricorns	(K Gillespie)	253
29	Robs Rockets	(R Lee)	328	66	Craigs Crackers	(G Strachan)	249
30	Cracker Jacks	(S Elliott)	326	67	Spice Islanders	(B Batson)	240
31	Eleven From Heaven	(A Limpar)	325	68	Reggy Rovers	(J Darby)	239
32	Kansas City Kings	(T Breaker)	323	69	Foreign United	(R Sneekes)	238
32	Irish Connection	(W Boland)	323	70	Ryton Wanderers	(P Shilton)	227
34	Prince's Team	(A Philippe)	322	71	Manchester Marauders	(A Pickering)	220
35	Avenue Foch Town FC	(M Crossley)	321	72	Champagne Charlies	(S Osborn)	219
36	Toshy's Welsh Terrie	(I Rush)	317	73	One Footed Wonders	(D Fairclough)	216
36	The Warriors	(S Dykstra)	317	74	Steamo Utd	(J Williams)	203

CENTRAL DEFENDERS

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
30802	S Yates	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	+3	-12
30803	A McDonald	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	+4	+4
30805	K Ready	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	0	-10
30901	A Reeves	Wimbledon	2.50	0	-4
30902	A Thorn	Wimbledon	0.75	0	-5
30903	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.75	0	-8
30904	C Perry	Wimbledon	1.00	+4	-16
30905	A Pearce	Wimbledon	2.50	0	-3
31001	K Monkou	Southampton	1.50	0	+5
31002	A Neilson	Southampton	1.50	+2	+11
31003	R Hall	Southampton	1.50	0	+7
31101	E Johnsen	Chelsea	1.50	-1	+12
31102	J Kjeldbjerg	Chelsea	1.50	0	0
31103	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	0	+5
31104	D Lee	Chelsea	0.75	-1	+20
31105	M Duberry	Chelsea	2.50	-1	+4
31201	T Adams	Arsenal	4.50	0	+27
31202	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	0	+23
31203	M Keown	Arsenal	1.50	0	+30
31204	A Linighan	Arsenal	1.50	0	+10
31301	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-2
31303	J Newsome	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	0
31401	S Potts	West Ham United	2.50	0	+15
31402	M Rieper	West Ham United	2.50	0	+13
31403	A Martin	West Ham United	1.00	0	+20
31405	A Whitbread	West Ham United	0.50	0	0
31406	S Bilic	West Ham United	1.50	0	+5
31501	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50	+4	+35
31502	D Watson	Everton	2.50	+3	+22
31503	C Short	Everton	2.50	+4	+15
31602	D Rennie	Coventry City	0.75	0	-7
31603	D Busst	Coventry City	0.75	0	+1
31604	B Borrows	Coventry City	1.50	-2	-15
31605	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	-2	-17
31608	L Daish	Coventry City	1.50	-2	-1
31701	K Curle	Manchester City	1.50	-1	+6
31702	A Kernaghan	Manchester City	1.00	0	-3
31704	K Symons	Manchester City	1.50	0	+7
31801	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	2.50	-2	+36
31802	P McGrath	Aston Villa	1.50	-2	+26
31804	C Tiler	Aston Villa	0.75	0	+1
31901	N Pearson	Middlesbrough	0.75	+4	+17
31902	S Vickers	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	+21
31903	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	+4	0
31904	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	0.75	+2	+19
32001	A Stubbs	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	0	+15
32002	C Fairclough	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	0	-18
32003	S Coleman	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	-1	+3
32004	G Taggart	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	0	-10
32005	G Strong	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0

MIDFIELD PLAYERS

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
40103	J Wilcox	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	+1	+6
40104	T Sherwood	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+1	+34
40105	S Ripley	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	+1	+33
40107	P Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+3
40109	M Holmes	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	+10
40110	L Bohinen	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	0	+38
40111	W McKinlay	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+12
40112	G Fenton	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0	+3
40201	R Giggs	Manchester United	5.50	+1	+61
40202	R Keane	Manchester United	2.50	0	+39
40203	L Sharpe	Manchester United	3.00	+1	+42
40205	N Butt	Manchester United	2.00	0	+40
40206	D Beckham	Manchester United	0.75	+3	+39
40207	S Davies	Manchester United	0.75	0	+1
40302	C Bart-Williams	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+1	+39
40303	I Woan	Nottingham Forest	3.00	0	+51
40304	S Stone	Nottingham Forest	4.00	+1	+48
40305	D Phillips	Nottingham Forest	2.00	0	+21
40306	S Gemmill	Nottingham Forest	2.00	+1	+34
40307	K Black	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	+1
40308	S Howe	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0	0

MIDFIELD PLAYERS

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
40401	S McManaman	Liverpool	6.50	+2	+71
40402	J Redknapp	Liverpool	2.50	+2	+24
40403	J Barnes	Liverpool	3.00	+2	+56
40405	M Thomas	Liverpool	1.50	0	+28
40409	M Kennedy	Liverpool	2.00	0	+1
40411	J McAteer	Liverpool	4.00	+4	+46
40501	G McAllister	Leeds United	4.00	0	+56
40502	G Speed	Leeds United	4.00	+1	+38
40503	R Wallace	Leeds United	2.50	0	+23
40505	L Radebe	Leeds United	0.75	0	+7
40506	M Tinkler	Leeds United	0.50	0	+3
40507	A Couzens	Leeds United	1.00	0	+2
40508	M Ford	Leeds United	1.00	0	+9
40601	R Lee	Newcastle United	4.50	0	+50
40603	D Ginola	Newcastle United	4.50	0	+39
40604	K Gillespie	Newcastle United	4.00	0	+30
40605	L Clark	Newcastle United	1.50	0	+35
40607	S Watson	Newcastle United	1.50	0	+18
40608	C Holland	Newcastle United	0.75	0	0
40609	R Elliott	Newcastle United	0.75	0	+1
40610	D Batty	Newcastle United	1.50	0	+32
40701	D Anderton	Tottenham Hotspur	6.50	0	+3
40702	D Howells	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	+1	+34
40703	J Dozzell	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	+1	+27
40705	G McMahon	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	+7
40707	R Fox	Tottenham Hotspur	6.00	+5	+49
40708	A Sinton	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	+1	+17
40801	S Barker	Queens Park Rangers	2.50	+2	+33
40802	I Holloway	Queens Park Rangers	2.50	+1	+20
40803	A Impey	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	+2	+35
40805	T Sinclair	Queens Park Rangers	3.00	+2	+40
40806	G Goodridge	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	0	+1
40809	N Quashie	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	0	+9
40810	M Brazier	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	0	0
40901	V Jones	Wimbledon	2.00	+2	+17
40902	R Earle	Wimbledon	2.50	+1	+51
40903	M Gayle	Wimbledon	1.50	+2	+38
40904	O Leonhardsen	Wimbledon	2.50	0	+42
40905	N Ardley	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
40906	P Fear	Wimbledon	0.75	0	+3
41001	J Magilton	Southampton	3.00	+3	+51
41002	K Maddison	Southampton	2.00	0	+17
41003	N Heaney	Southampton	2.50	+3	+17
41005	D Hughes	Southampton	0.75	0	+6
41006	T Widdrington	Southampton	1.00	0	+25
41007	B Venison	Southampton	1.50	+2	+20
41008	M Walters	Southampton	1.50	0	+7
41101	D Wise	Chelsea	5.00	+1	+49
41102	R Gullit	Chelsea	4.00	+3	+51
41103	G Peacock	Chelsea	3.00	0	+39
41104	D Rocastle	Chelsea	1.50	0	+1
41105	N Spackman	Chelsea	0.75	0	+9
41106	C Burley	Chelsea	1.00	+1	+16
41108	E Newton	Chelsea	0.75	0	+32
41201	G Helder	Arsenal	4.00	0	+25
41202	P Merson	Arsenal	4.00	0	+56
41204	R Parlour	Arsenal	2.00	0	+17
41205	E McGoldrick	Arsenal	1.00	0	0
41206	D Hillier	Arsenal	1.00	0	+6
41207	J Jensen	Arsenal	1.00	0	+16
41208	D Platt	Arsenal	4.50	0	+39
41209	A Clarke	Arsenal	1.50	0	+2
41301	J Sheridan	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+10
41303	C Waddle	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+32
41304	G Hyde	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+17
41305	K Ingesson	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+5
41306	R Jones	Sheffield Wednesday	0.75	0	0
41307	M Williams	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	0	+2
41308	L Briscoe	Sheffield Wednesday	0.75	0	+16
41309	M Pembridge	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+25
41401	J Moncur	West Ham United	3.00	0	+19
41405	I Bishop	West Ham United	1.50	0	+44
41406	D Gordon	West Ham United	1.00	0	0
41409	R Slater	West Ham United	1.00	0	+21

MIDFIELD PLAYERS

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
41410	S Lazaridos	West Ham United	1.00	0	+2
41411	M Hughes	West Ham United	2.00	0	+36
41412	D Williamson	West Ham United	1.00	0	+26
41413	I Dumitrescu	West Ham United	4.00	0	+7
41501	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	5.00	+1	+28
41502	J Ebbrell	Everton	1.50	0	+33
41503	A Limpar	Everton	2.50	0	+27
41504	B Horne	Everton	1.50	+2	+24
41505	V Samways	Everton	1.50	0	+5
41506	J Parkinson	Everton	1.00	0	+35
41508	A Grant	Everton	0.50	+2	+12
41509	A Kanchelskis	Everton	6.00	+6	+62
41601	P Cook	Coventry City	2.00	0	+2
41602	K Richardson	Coventry City	1.50	+2	+27
41603	G Strachan	Coventry City	1.50	0	+3
41607	P Telfer	Coventry City	1.50	0	+33
41608	M Isaias	Coventry City	3.00	0	+9
41609	C Batista	Coventry City	1.00	0	0
41610	J Salako	Coventry City	2.50	+1	+44
41701	G Flitcroft	Manchester City	2.50	-3	+22
41702	P Beagrie	Manchester City	3.00	0	+3
41703	S Lomas	Manchester City	1.50	+1	+38
41704	I Brightwell	Manchester City	1.50	+1	+20
41706	N Summerbee	Manchester City	1.50	-2	+37
41707	G Kinkladze	Manchester City	1.50	+1	+50
41708	N Clough	Manchester City	1.50	+1	+21
41709	C Brown	Manchester City	1.00	0	+1
41801	A Townsend	Aston Villa	2.00	0	+37
41802	I Taylor	Aston Villa	2.00	+1	+34
41803	G Southgate	Aston Villa	2.00	0	+46
41805	F Carr	Aston Villa	0.50	0	+4
41806	M Draper	Aston Villa	2.50	+1	+57
41901	C Hignett	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+28
41902	A Moore	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+1
41903	J Moreno	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+2
41904	R Mustoe	Middlesbrough	0.75	+2	+25
41905	J Pollock	Middlesbrough	2.00	+2	+34
41906	B Robson	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+2
41907	Juninho	Middlesbrough	5.00	0	+21
42002	D Lee	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	0	+11
42003	A Thompson	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	0	+15
42007	W Burnett	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0
42008	S Sellars	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	+1	+30
42009	S Curcic	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	+1	+27

STRIKERS

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
50101	A Shearer	Blackburn Rovers	10.00	+0	+86
50102	C Sutton	Blackburn Rovers	7.00	0	+7
50103	M Newell	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	+1	+23
50104	K Gallacher	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+1	+15
50105	N Goodm'dsson	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	+1
50201	E Cantona	Manchester United	7.60	+1	+59
50202	A Cole	Manchester United	7.00	+3	+52
50203	B McClair	Manchester United	3.00	0	+17
50204	P Scholes	Manchester United	2.50	0	+34
50301	B Roy	Nottingham Forest	6.00	+1	+40
50302	K Campbell	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0	+35
50303	J Lee	Nottingham Forest	1.50	+1	+22
50305	A Silenzi	Nottingham Forest	3.50	0	+7
50306	P McGregor	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	0
50401	R Fowler	Liverpool	8.00	+5	+98
50402	S Collymore	Liverpool	7.50	+1	+57
50403	I Rush	Liverpool	3.00	0	+19
50501	A Yeboah	Leeds United	7.50	0	+53
50502	B Deane	Leeds United	2.50	+1	+34
50503	P Masinga	Leeds United	1.50	0	+3
50506	T Brolin	Leeds United	5.00	0	+19
50601	L Ferdinand	Newcastle United	8.00	0	+74
50602	P Beardsley	Newcastle United	5.00	0	+37
50603	P Kitson	Newcastle United	2.50	0	+7
50604	M Allen	Newcastle United	0.50	0	0
50605	D Huckerby	Newcastle United	0.50	0	0
50606	F Asprilla	Newcastle United	6.50	0	+8
50701	E Sheringham	Tottenham Hotspur	6.00	+3	+76
50702	C Armstrong	Tottenham Hotspur	4.00	+1	+60
50704	R Rosenthal	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0	+31
50801	K Gallen	Queens Park Rangers	4.50	+3	+30
50802	B Allen	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	+5
50803	D Dichio	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	+3	+29
50805	M Hateley	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	0	+10
50901	D Holdsworth	Wimbledon	4.00	+2	+44
50902	J Goodman	Wimbledon	1.50	0	+31
50903	M Harford	Wimbledon	1.00	0	+18
50904	G Blissett	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
50905	A Clarke	Wimbledon	0.75	+1	+13
50906	E Ekoku	Wimbledon	2.50	+1	+41
50907	J Euell	Wimbledon	1.50	0	+2
51001	M Le Tissier	Southampton	8.00	0	+29
51002	N Shipperley	Southampton	2.50	+2	+55
51003	G Watson	Southampton	2.00	+1	+25
51101	M Hughes	Chelsea	4.00	+1	+34
51102	M Stein	Chelsea	2.50	0	+6
51103	J Spencer	Chelsea	2.50	+1	+40
51104	P Furlong	Chelsea	2.50	0	+20
51201	I Wright	Arsenal	7.50	0	+44
51202	D Bergkamp	Arsenal	7.50	0	+45
51203	J Hartson	Arsenal	4.00	0	+19
51204	C Kiwomya	Arsenal	1.50	0	0
51206	P Dickov	Arsenal	0.75	0	+4
51301	D Hirst	Sheffield Wednesday	4.00	0	+42
51302	M Bright	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+27
51303	G Whittingham	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+30
51304	O Donaldson	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	+3
51305	M Degryse	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00	0	+38
51306	D Kovacevic	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00	0	+11
51307	R Blinker	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00	0	+2
51401	T Cottee	West Ham United	4.50	0	+44
51403	M Boogers	West Ham United	2.00	0	-3
51404	I Dowie	West Ham United	0.75	0	+45
51405	Dani	West Ham United	2.50	0	+6
51501	D Ferguson	Everton	6.00	0	+26
51502	D Amokachi	Everton	2.00	+3	+28
51503	P Rideout	Everton	3.00	0	+30
51504	G Stuart	Everton	2.00	0	+52
51601	D Dublin	Coventry City	4.50	+4	+59
51602	P Ndlovu	Coventry City	4.00	+1	+25
51605	N Lamptey	Coventry City	1.00	0	+3
51606	N Whelan	Coventry City	1.50	+2	+34
51607	E Jess	Coventry City	3.00	+2	+5
51701	U Rosler	Manchester City	5.50	0	+46
51702	N Quinn	Manchester City	4.00	+3	+42
51705	G Creaney	Manchester City	2.50	0	+15
51706	R Ekelund	Manchester City	2.50	0	+1
51801	S Milosevic	Aston Villa	4.00	+1	+55
51803	D Yorke	Aston Villa	3.00	+1	+68
51804	T Johnson	Aston Villa	2.50	0	+24
51806	J Joachim	Aston Villa	1.50	0	+6
51901	J Fjortoft	Middlesbrough	5.00	0	+28
51902	J Hendrie	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+8
51903	P Wilkinson	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+5
51904	N Barmby	Middlesbrough	4.00	+1	+43
52001	J McGinlay	Bolton Wanderers	3.00	+3	+35
52003	M Paatelainen	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	+10
52004	F De Freitas	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	+1	+26
52005	N Blake	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	0	+11

MANAGERS

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
60101	R Harford	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	-1	+36
60201	A Ferguson	Manchester United	4.00	+3	+78
60301	F Clark	Nottingham Forest	3.00	-1	+48
60401	R Evans	Liverpool	4.00	+3	+69
60501	H Wilkinson	Leeds United	3.00	-1	+36
60601	K Keegan	Newcastle United	4.00	0	+58
60701	G Francis	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00	+3	+56
60801	R Wilkins	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	+3	+9
60901	J Kinnear	Wimbledon	1.00	+3	+30
61001	D Merrington	Southampton	1.50	+2	+23
61101	G Hoddle	Chelsea	2.50	-1	+50
61201	B Rioch	Arsenal	3.50	0	+46
61301	D Pleat	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	0	+19
61401	H Redknapp	West Ham United	1.00	0	+35
61501	J Royle	Everton	2.00	+3	+45
61601	R Atkinson	Coventry City	1.50	-2	+15
61701	A Ball	Manchester City	1.50	+1	+22
61801	B Little	Aston Villa	2.50	-1	+59
61901	B Robson	Middlesbrough	1.00	+3	+28
62002	C Todd	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	+1	+10

NEWS

Howard rushes in terrorist law

■ Emergency laws giving the police the right to stop and search terrorist suspects are to be rushed through Parliament today amid fears of an IRA Easter bomb campaign.

The measures to provide the police with more powers to flush out terrorists and their bombs, explosives and guns is expected to law by tomorrow. Michael Howard unveiled the package of changes to the Prevention of Terrorism Act, saying they were needed to counter the renewed IRA threat......................Page 1

Tory MP threatens to topple Government

■ A close ally of Michael Heseltine threatened to bring down the Government if John Major concedes a referendum on a single currency. Julian Critchley gave the warning as the Prime Minister failed to persuade Kenneth Clarke to abandon his resistance to a plebiscite..Page 1

'Mad cow' deal

Britain proposed the destruction of up to 4.6 million cattle over the next six years in an attempt to end the "mad cow" crisis.........Page 1

Jail criticisms

A prisoner at Holloway jail was forced to attend court in her night clothes because there was no other clothing available for inmates at Britain's biggest female prison................................Page 2

Drunken rampage

The teenage sons of a doctor, a retired bank manager and a business consultant were sentenced to youth custody for assaulting a church caretaker "for a laugh" after getting drunk...........Page 3

BSE test

The families of four victims of the human form of "mad cow" disease urged the Government to examine a possible test in live cattle and humans.......... Page 4

Chernobyl fear

People on the remote Western Isle of Benbecula spoke of fears that their seemingly unspoilt island was harbouring a deadly environmental agent caused by the Chernobyl disaster...........Page 5

Border dispute

A retired teacher smiled as chainsaws trimmed his neighbour's giant *Cupressus leylandii* hedge — another episode in one of Britain's longest and costliest unneighbourly disputes ...Page 6

George Blake sued

The double-agent George Blake was sued by Britain in an attempt to recover £90,000 he made from a book on his years with MI6...................................Page 8

Murder case death

A police officer cleared of murdering his wife in a whirlpool bath seven years ago has been found dead in his car..................Page 8

Water competition

Water companies will be forced to compete with smaller firms under plans announced by the Government......................Page 11

Saudi row

A new row between Britain and Saudi Arabia is threatening to jeopardise millions of pounds of British exports after BBC's *Panorama* showed explicit scenes of a man being publicly executed with a sword............................Page 13

Terrorism plan

America is marshalling an anti-terrorist army in Atlanta for a series of exercises a day before the anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing and amid fears of attacks on the Olympic Games..............................Page 14

Israeli referendum

Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, pledged for the first time to stage a referendum on any final peace agreement with the Palestinians, including the future status of Jerusalem ....Page 15

Into the wide, blue yonder

■ It was not surprising that Pepsi-Cola delayed the announcement that it was to paint Concorde blue to match its new can until after April 1. Rumours that the company had spent £125,000 to paint an Air France Concorde blue and another £125,000 to paint it white again, had been circulating. But no-one could believe it was serious...........................Page 1

STEWART GOLDSTEIN

Rainbow trout being released yesterday into the Bewl Water reservoir, Kent, ready for the fishing season which starts tomorrow

BUSINESS

Economy: British manufacturing contracted in March, marking the seventh month of virtual stagnation, says the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply.....Page 25

Telecoms: Two American telephone companies have announced a $17 billion merger, creating the country's second largest phone company after AT&T in the first deal of a shake-up..............Page 25

National Westminster: The markets arm of National Westminster has been criticised by the City Takeover Panel over Rentokil's £1.8 billion bid for BET............Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 18.7 to 3718.4. Sterling rose from 83.4 to 83.6 after a fall from $1.5262 to $1.5255 but a rise from DM2.2531 to DM2.2623...........................Page 28

SPORT

Football: The almost unprecedented sight of rows of empty seats at FA Cup semi-finals has forced the Football Association to review its ticketing structure............. Page 48

Boxing: Lennox Lewis has been guaranteed a challenge for the WBC heavyweight title in September. If terms cannot be agreed with Mike Tyson, his opponent could be Frank Bruno....................... Page 48

Rugby union: David McKendrick, the Biggar lock, has received a 19-month suspension from the Scottish Rugby Union for incidents in a match against Ayr............ Page 48

Rowing: Oxford will have an advantage of 1lb a man for the Boat Race. Cambridge's Ethan Ayer, at 6ft 8¾in. will be the tallest man to row in the event................ Page 48

ARTS

Forgotten Impressionist: The Royal Academy has mounted the first major British exhibition of paintings by Gustave Caillebotte, best known as a great collector of *Impressionists*.................. *Page 40*

Young virtuoso: "There has never been a more accomplished Young Musician than Rafal Payne," says Gerald Larner...................Page 41

Out of the Bush: Having turned the Bush into one of the most exciting venues for new plays in London, Dominic Doomgoole is quitting the theatre and turning his energies towards film.......................Page 41

Pawn show: *The musical Chess*, written by Tim Rice and two members of the pop group Abba, has been revived for a long British tour ....Page 42

FEATURES

Sex and Chopin: The Royal Scottish National Orchestra talk to Julia Llewellyn Smith about their portrayal in *Appassionata*, Jilly Cooper's latest novel.........Page 17

Piers, Gary and friends: *Surfing through Debrett's People of Today on CD-Rom*, Giles Coren finds that it is not as populist as it claims to be.......................................Page 17

BODY AND MIND

Miracle of science? Richard Dawkins's new book, *Climbing Mount Improbable*, traces the evolution of the human eye ....Page 16

Headless bodies: Hallucinations can signify Lewy Body dementia, says Dr Thomas Stuttaford. How do you treat it?....................Page 16

LAW

BSE blight: What is the Government doing to compensate families of victims of CJD?.............Page 35

THE PAPERS

Britain's dear fellow European partners reacted by gleefully slapping bans on imports of British beef without delay. This, of course, much to the delight of their own farmers. These events took place as the EU countries were to meet in Turin to implement yet another plank of the Maastricht agenda, which is supposed to set them on the road to becoming the United States of Europe

— *Washington Times*

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ INTERFACE
Win a complete home office, including computer and printer, worth £2,500

■ PLUS . . .
Top writers in *The Times*: Simon Jenkins, Alan Coren and Nigella Lawson

TV LISTINGS

Preview: The scalpels are out for the return of the quirky hospital drama. *Cardiac Arrest* (BBC1, 10pm) **Review:** Peter Barnard on a Chernobyl update.............Page 47

OPINION

Political jobbery

Markets will not wait for politicians to find the philosopher's stone. That should, but will not be, the word from Lille............Page 19

Lords of libel

The amendment should be supported in the interests of freedom of speech as well as justice: it give judges the right to judge in their domain; and editors the right to edit in theirs..............................Page 19

Naval gazing

What the Millenium Exhibition requires is a business Bonaparte who can make private enterprise work in the public interest..........Page 19

COLUMNS

LIBBY PURVES

All week a perilous sense has been growing on me that I no longer belong to a lion-like little country that famously stood alone, but to a flabby and timid and panicking one..Page 18

ROGER SCRUTON

Thank God that in a world of short-term efficiency, there remain these few institutions devoted to the glorious idea of waste. For as surely as short-term efficiency abhors waste, long-term efficiency requires it..........................Page 18

GRAHAM SEARGEANT

Standards are now high enough to make it reasonable to use one company's mains for another's water. The drawback is that drinking water would become a commodity, based on the legal minimum standard. There would be no incentive for any one company to do any better, for instance on colour or nitrate traces......................Page 18

OBITUARIES

Claude Mauriac, writer and journalist; **Anne Ford Johnson**, American hostess and first wife of Henry Ford II; **The Right Rev Lloyd Morrell**, Bishop of Lewes, 1959-77.................................Page 21

LETTERS

Sir Julian Crichley on single currency; Europe; Sir Ron Dearing's report; Zen in management; gun licences; eye tests ....Page 19

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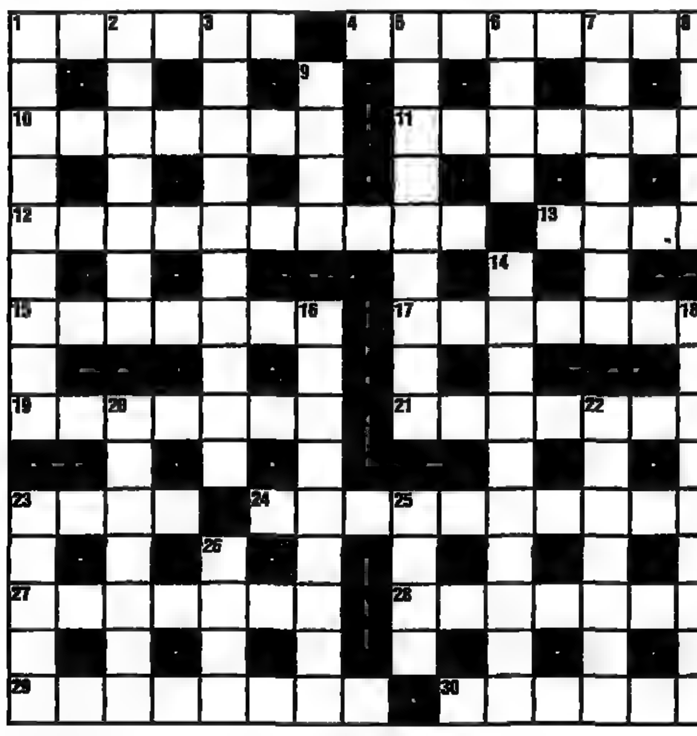


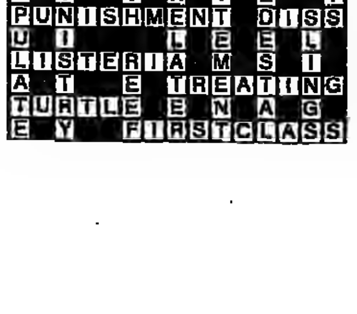
ACROSS

1 Food the Italian way — no dish, oddly, needed (6).
4 Jack may be seen here — in box and pack of cards (4-4).
10 No advantage's allowed in new puzzle (7).
11 Early, perhaps — coming round a day before now (7).
12 Destroy book after nothing gets learned (10).
13 Fashion business (4).
15 Five song-books, altogether different (7).
17 Guy in jazz club hosting strip show (7).
19 Write article about a telling performance (7).
21 Nothing about a heartless betrayal is attractive (7).
23 Share a concern (4).
24 May do well, having Joyce's personality (5,5).
27 Cow tucked into grain as main source of food? (7).
28 Risk the introduction of laywomen in part of the church (7).
29 A fresh flower opening (8).
30 Remarkable occurrence seen in 1995 but not 1996 (6).

DOWN

1 Vehicle insurance that's highly acceptable in North American city (9).
2 Recall a ringleader forming a ring (7).
3 It's loosely associated with talented amateur (10).
5 Hands on most of the business the French passed up (9).
6 Unusual choice (4).
7 English chap turned up at our entrance (7).
8 Boat unaffected by capsizing (5).
9 Employer's conduct not hard-hearted (4).
14 Open committee meeting upstairs? (5-5).
16 Tough assignment class has proudly taken on (4,5).
18 Count embraces ambassador jolly warmly (9).
20 Originally all the sailors imprisoned for butchery (7).
22 Inspiring passages? (7).
23 Dad and Mum have a meeting in the Turk's Head (5).
25 Material under a pound's excellent (4).
26 Experienced, but left out? (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,130



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TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code

London & SE traffic, roadworks

Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: St Angelo, Co Fermanagh, 11C (52F); lowest day max: Manston, Kent, and Newcastle upon Tyne, 5C (41F); highest rainfall: Aviemore, 0.27in; highest sunshine: Guernsey, 10.9hr.

FLIGHT SAVERS

£58 rtn.

LONDON TO GLASGOW EDINBURGH OR ABERDEEN

Phone Air UK on 0345 666777 or contact your travel agent. All major credit cards accepted. Subject to availability and airport tax. Restrictions apply. AirUK

FORECAST

☐ **General:** much of England and Wales will have a dry day with broken cloud and sunny spells.

A few showers are expected in some western and southeastern counties. It will remain rather on the cold side, with frost early in the day. Winds will stay mostly light. Northern Ireland will have a few showers early in the day but these will tend to die away. Scotland should experience most of the day dry, with some sunshine.

Later in the day the far north will cloud over, perhaps with a little drizzle. It will be rather cold, with frost early in the day. Winds will be mostly light.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia:** some sunny or clear spells with a scattering of mostly light showers, which will tend to die out later. Winds light, mainly northeasterly. Rather cold with early frost. Max 9C (48F).

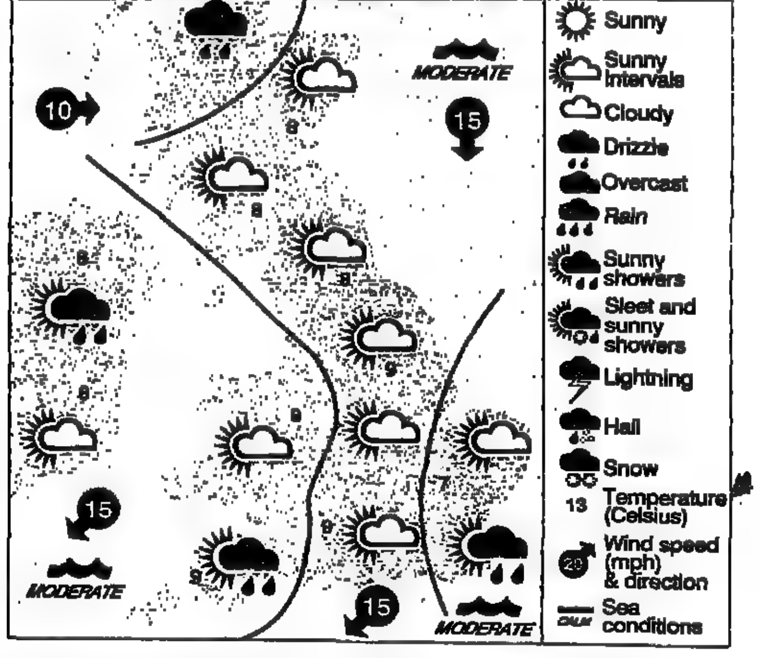
☐ **Central S England, E & W Midlands, E England, NW England, Lake District, Central N, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll:** dry for the most part. Early mist and fog patches clearing to leave sunny or clear periods. Winds light and rather variable in direction. Rather cold with early frost. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England, S & N Wales, Isle of Man, N Ireland:** a few showers, mainly near the coast early in the day; otherwise mostly dry and bright. Winds light, mainly between northeast and northwest. Rather cold. Max 9C (48F).

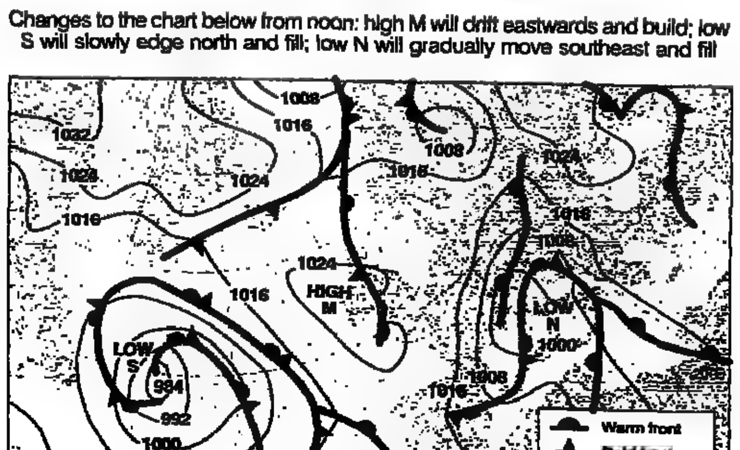
☐ **NE & NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** mostly dry and bright at first, becoming rather cloudy later, with the chance of a little light rain. Winds light or moderate, mainly northwest becoming westerly. Rather cold. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Outlook:** dry for the most part, with light winds and sunny or clear periods.

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: high M will drift eastwards and build; low S will slowly edge north and fill; low N will gradually move southeast and fill



AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 6 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	5.3	0.01	7	45	s
Anglesey	1.3	-	8	46	c
Aspatria	1.3	-	7	45	c
Aviemore	-	0.01	7	45	c
Belfast	-	-	7	45	c
Birmingham	0.8	-	7	45	c
Bognor R	6.9	-	8	46	b
Bournem'th	-	0.01	8	46	b
Bristol	2.4	0.01	7	45	b
Cardiff	4.5	-	9	48	b
Cromer	9.4	0.02	5	41	s
Eastbourne	5.9	0.05	7	45	sn
Eskdalemuir	1.0	0.01	7	45	sn
Exmouth	6.1	-	7	45	s
Fishguard	1.2	-	8	46	c
Folkestone	7.0	0.02	6	43	s
Glasgow	3.3	-	10	50	b
Guernsey	10.9	-	9	48	b
Hastings	6.3	0.01	7	45	sl
Hayling I.	7.3	0.01	8	46	sh
Herne Bay	7.6	0.04	6	43	s
Hove	5.1	-	7	45	b
Hunstanton	10.3	0.04	5	41	s
Isle of Man	3.3	-	8	46	s
Jersey	10.6	-	9	48	s
Kinloss	4.1	0.01	7	45	b
Leeds	1.0	-	8	46	c
Leuchars	6.7	-	8	46	s
Littlehmptn	6.2	0.01	7	45	sn
Liverpool	X				
London	6.3	-	9	48	b
Lowestoft	10.2	-	6	43	s
Manchester	-	-	7	45	c
Margate	6.4	0.06	7	45	sn

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Minehead	3.1	0.01	7	45	b
Morecambe	4.4	-	6	43	s
Newcastle	1.1	0.01	5	41	s
Newquay	8.6	-	X	X	b
Norwich	X				
Nottingham	X				
Oxford	-	-	7	45	c
Penzance	X	-	9	48	du
Plymouth	10.1	-	9	48	s
Poole	X				
Prestatyn	R	-	9	48	s
Ross-o-wye	5.4	0.01	8	46	sn
Ryde	7.8	0.01	7	45	s
Salcombe	7.6	-	8	46	b
Salcombe	7.6	-	8	46	b
Sandown	6.2	0.01	7	45	sh
Saunton Snd	9.2	-	9	48	s
Scarboro'	9.6	0.01	6	43	s
Shanklin	8.0	0.01	X	X	s
Shrewsbury	0.6	-	7	45	c
Skegness	X				
Southend	6.8	0.01	7	45	b
Southport	5.4	-	7	45	s
Southsea	5.8	-	8	46	s
Stornoway	3.5	0.03	9	48	sh
Swanage	5.9	-	7	45	s
Teignmouth	8.4	-	8	46	s
Tenby	X				
Tiree	7.2	0.01	9	48	s
Torquay	9.4	-	9	48	s
Tynemouth	X				
Ventnor	8.5	0.01	8	46	sl
West-s-mare	X				
Weymouth	6.0	0.01	7	45	s

ABROAD

	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	15	59	f	Corfu	15	59	c	Majorca	16	61	f	Rome	15	59	f
Akrotiri	19	66	s	C'phagn	3	37	c	Malaga	21	70	c	S Fr'isco	14	57	s
Alex'dria	20	68	f	Dublin	7	45	c	Malta	19	66	s	S Paulo	28	82	s
Algiers	21	70	c	Dubrovnik	13	55	s	Melb'rne	20	68	s	Salzburg	2	36	sn
Amst'dm	6	43	f	Faro	19	66	f	Mexico C	X			Santiago	26	79	s
Athens	18	64	s	Florence	8	46	c	Miami	28	82	c	Seoul	7	45	f
B Aires	27	81	s	Frankfurt	6	43	f	Milan	12	54	f	Sing'por	30	86	t
Bahrain	24	75	s	Funchal	19	66	s	Montreal	5	41	X	St'kholm	0	32	sn
Bangkok	34	93	f	Geneva	7	45	f	Moscow	-2	28	s	Strasb'rg	4	39	sn
Barbados	30	86	f	Gibraltar	19	66	c	Munich	2	36	f	Sydney	23	73	s
Barcelona	12	54	f	Helsinki	0	32	sn	N Delhi	30	86	s	Tangier	19	66	c
Beirut	21	70	f	Hong K	26	79	f	N York	12	54	s	Tel Aviv	29	84	s
Belgrade	11	52	s	Innsbrck	5	41	c	Nairobi	26	79	f	Tenerife	22	72	s
Berlin	3	37	sn	Istanbul	9	48	f	Naples	14	57	f	Tokyo	17	63	c
Bermuda	18	64	s	Jeddah	34	93	s	Nice	15	59	f	Toronto	9	48	s
Biarritz	13	55	f	Jo'burg	24	75	s	Oslo	3	37	f	Tunis	22	72	s
Borde'x	13	55	f	Karachi	X			Paris	7	45	f	Valencia	22	72	f
Brussels	5	41	s	L Angels	20	68	s	Peking	15	59	s	Vanc'ver	10	50	f
Budapst	7	45	f	L Palmas	22	72	s	Perth	24	75	s	Venice	12	54	f
Cairo	24	75	s	Le Touqt	7	45	f	Prague	3	37	c	Vienna	6	43	f
Cape Tn	22	72	s	Lisbon	17	63	c	Reykjavik	5	41	c	Warsaw	3	37	c
Ch'church	24	75	s	Luxembg	4	39	f	Rhodes	18	64	s	Wash'ton	17	63	f
Chicago	3	37	r	Luxor	26	79	s	Rio de J	33	91	s	Wel'ngton	18	64	s
Cologne	5	41	f	Madrid	16	61	r	Rio de J	27	81	f	Zurich	3	37	sn

Temperatures at midday local time Sunday. X = not available

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	0:30	6.3	12:59	6.5
Aberdeen	0:21	3.9	12:34	4.0
Avonmouth	6:02	12.3	6:27	12.5
Belfast	10:10	3.4	10:35	3.2
Cardiff	5:50	11.0	6:15	11.1
Devonport	4:37	5.1	5:03	5.1
Dover	10:03	6.2	10:19	6.4
Dublin (N Wall)	10:40	3.8	10:53	3.8
Falmouth	3:54	4.8	4:15	4.8
Greenock	11:32	3.2	-	-
Harwich	10:55	3.7	11:08	3.8
Holyhead	9:18	5.2	9:37	5.2
Hull (Albert D)	5:10	6.7	5:18	6.9
Ilfracombe	4:53	8.7	5:18	8.8
King's Lynn	5:20	5.9	5:32	6.0

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Leith	1:26	5.0	1:44	5.2
Liverpool	10:19	8.8	10:38	8.9
Lowestoft	8:37	2.3	8:37	2.4
Margate	11:09	4.4	11:18	4.5
Milford Haven	5:09	6.5	5:29	6.5
Newquay	4:01	6.2	4:19	6.4
Oban	4:46	3.7	5:13	3.7
Penzance	3:37	5.1	3:54	5.2
Portland	5:31	1.9	6:06	1.9
Portsmouth	10:18	4.3	10:43	4.5
Shoreham	10:08	5.7	10:26	6.0
Southampton	9:47	4.2	10:07	4.4
Swansea	5:18	8.8	5:40	9.0
Tees	2:33	4.9	2:45	5.0
Walton-on-Naze	10:52	4.1	11:02	4.0

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Man who gave heart and money to Impressionism

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Squash rebel happy to court bad publicity

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY APRIL 2 1996

Baby Bells plan $50bn merger

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

THE pace of consolidation in the global telecommunications industry gathered speed yesterday with the proposed merger of two US regional telephone companies, creating a new entity that is second in size only to AT&T in America.

A merger of SBC Communications, based in Texas, and California's Pacific Telesis Group will be one of the largest in US corporate history. It will create a company worth more than $50 billion, with 100,000 employees and revenues of more than $21 billion. As British Telecom and Cable and Wireless continued talks in London aimed at securing a £30 billion merger, executives of the two American companies said their own merger was driven by the need to create a company big enough to break into the international market.

After their respective mergers, the US and UK companies will be similar in size, ranking third or fourth largest in the world.

John Wilks, telecommunications analyst at Brown Brothers Harriman, the New York broker, said: "International telecoms is a major factor in this deal. International business is growing faster than the domestic side, and size matters in this field."

California is attracting competing phone companies because it is seen as a gateway for international traffic into the rapidly growing markets of the Pacific Rim and Mexico. SBC and PacTel are looking to take a substantial slice of the $70 billion-a-year long-distance traffic. "California is a window on to the Pacific Rim," said Mr Wilks.

Protecting their home turf, however, is just as strong a motivation for the two companies. The US telecommunications industry has been thrown into turmoil by recent legislation that allows the Baby Bells and the long-distance call companies, such as AT&T and MCI, to break into each other's markets. To meet the increased competition, AT&T is splitting itself into three, while many of the seven Baby Bell companies believe the only way to survive is to merge.

SBC is effectively taking over PacTel in a stock swap that values PacTel shares at $39 each, a 41 per cent premium to its Friday closing price. The California company, which is the smallest of the Baby Bells, was already suffering from inroads by competitors into its lucrative market, with a 12 per cent drop in profits in the final quarter of last year, its shares near a 52-week low and rumours that it was considering cutting its dividend. It also spun off its lucrative wireless phone company two years ago which cut its revenues. SBC, by contrast, is performing strongly with a 22 per cent jump in fourth quarter profits. The new group will be called SBC Communications Inc.

Among the other local phone companies, Bell Atlantic and Nynex, two East Coast operators, have been in merger talks but are yet to agree on price. SBC and PacTel said they did not expect any antitrust or competitive issues to delay the merger or cause regulatory problems because they operate in different regions and only SBC has a cellular phone network.

☐ Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, yesterday made it clear that the Government has not given any approval in principle to a possible merger of BT and C&W. He said: "Should these two companies propose a merger, then the competition authorities in the UK, in Europe and in other parts of the world need to consider the position. It would be inappropriate for the UK Government to prejudge any future decisions by the UK competition authorities."

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3718.4	(+18.7)
Yield	3.99%	
FT-SE A All share	1850.22	(+6.78)
Nikkei	21560.39	(+153.54)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5604.84	(+17.70)*
S&P Composite	649.76	(+4.26)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 7/16%*	(5 3/8%)
Long Bond	91 3/8*	(91 11/32)
Yield	6.67%*	(6.67%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6 1/16%	(6 1/32%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	105 5/32	(104 17/32)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5244*	(1.5270)
London:		
$	1.5255	(1.5283)
DM	2.2594	(2.2532)
FFr	7.6960	(7.6870)
SFr	1.8213	(1.8152)
Yen	163.86	(163.23)
£ Index	83.6	(83.4)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.4822*	(1.4763)
FFr	5.0478*	(5.0332)
SFr	1.1942*	(1.1900)
Yen	107.50*	(107.25)
$ Index	96.0	(95.8)

Tokyo close Yen 107.82

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jun)	$18.75	($18.35)

GOLD

London close	$394.75	($396.55)

* denotes midday trading price

EC to call for social clause in trade deals

FROM PHILIP BASSETT IN LILLE

BRUSSELS will today bring into the open a simmering row between the world's leading industrial nations over attaching minimum employment standards to international trade agreements when Europe's Social Affairs Commissioner calls clearly for a new "social clause" to trade deals.

The move will be strongly opposed by the UK Government, which insisted yesterday at the Group of Seven (G7) jobs conference that it would not accept any such imposition of international labour standards.

It follows a sharp coded attack on Britain's policies at the conference yesterday by Jacques Santer, European Commission President, who claimed, against the disagreement of Britain, a consensus on the need for a co-ordinated European and macroeconomic strategy to combat unemployment.

Padraig Flynn, EC Commissioner, will today tell the G7 jobs conference in Lille, northeast France, before its conclusion, that the issue of a link between trade agreements and minimum employment standards "must be faced and talked about. It simply cannot be ducked or avoided. European public opinion would not find that credible."

He will insist that social standards should be established, and will propose that the World Trade Organisation — the successor to Gatt — should consider setting up ways to introduce them at its own conference in Singapore at the end of the year, on four grounds

These are: freedom of association, the right for unions to organise and bargain collectively, an end to child and forced labour and to discrimination at work.

Mr Flynn will say that social standards are not a "threat to competitiveness" but will "in the long term strengthen the economic performance of all countries which apply those standards."

He will deny that a social clause attached to trade agreements will "cut down the competitive capacity of developing countries."

Britain, which has strongly opposed the issue of the linking of employment standards to international trade agreements being included on the agenda for the Lille conference, angrily attacked the idea of any form of social clause.

Gillian Shephard, the Employment and Education Secretary, rejected a social clause. She told the G7 conference: "While we deplore practices that are in any way evil, we should leave these matters to the countries themselves."

Linking the EU social chapter from which the United Kingdom has opted-out of a social clause, she said: "It is not acceptable at the European level for practices to be imposed from outside. Equally it is not acceptable at an international level."

Minimum job standards attached to trade agreements would not help developing countries: "We don't want to see countries held back by the imposition of international standards," the minister added.

Britain claims that Canada, Japan and even the United States support the United Kingdom's opposition to a social clause. In his speech to the G7 conference, President Chirac strongly backed a social clause, arguing that there were situations which would be "less and less tolerated" as international competition intensified.

Arguing that people found "more or less disguised" forms of "adult or child slavery" intolerable, President Chirac said: "We should all become aware that liberalisation of trade, development of employment and respect for a number of universal rules cannot be dissociated." If there was to be a greater freedom of trade, "a few basic rules" had to be applied to guarantee people's dignity.

Britain made clear its disagreement with the President's message on trade and jobs, although it welcomed his guarded endorsement for more flexible labour market practices.

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Pennington 27

Carrying the can: Jonathan Fry, the chief executive of Burmah Castrol, right, and Brian Hardy, the finance director, celebrate a 15 per cent rise in full-year profits to £253 million, which was announced yesterday. Story 27, Tempus 28

ROBIN MAYES

Factory output down again

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH manufacturing activity contracted in March, marking the seventh month in a row where the sector has been virtually stagnant, according to the latest survey from the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply.

The institute's purchasing managers' survey fell to 49.7 in March from 49.9 in February. Any number under 50 signals a contraction in the sector. The manufacturing sector is still struggling to emerge from the weight of a huge build-up of stocks last year as firms overestimated the strength of demand.

In an attempt to offload some of these stocks, factories slashed prices. The institute's prices index fell to 43.3 from 44.4 in February, the sharpest drop since July 1991, the month the survey began.

This is potentially excellent news for inflation and the City was yesterday talking about the possibility of another cut in base rates, perhaps in the summer. Most analysts think that the monetary meeting tomorrow is too soon to cut rates again.

The purchasing managers' survey showed that firms reduced output in an attempt to cut stock levels. The output index slumped to its lowest level since October 1992. The employment index fell for the third successive month as companies laid off people in response to weak demand. New orders were up, but only slightly.

There was some pick-up in demand for consumer goods, but that was not strong enough to balance declines in other sectors. Peter Thomson, director-general of the institute, said: "What we are seeing is a two-tiered manufacturing economy with strong growth reported by purchasing managers in consumer industries and contraction in other sectors."

The Government is relying on 3.5 per cent growth in consumer spending this year to help to achieve its overall growth forecast of 3 per cent. But most independent economists doubt that spending will be strong enough to counteract the negative effect of the stocks cycle early in the year.

Separately, the Bank of England reported a 0.5 per cent increase in M0, the narrow money supply, in March. This depressed the annual rate of growth in the measure to 5.4 per cent from 6.0 per cent in February.

Judge gives provisional ruling on BCCI

BY OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of England appears to have won the first round of its battle with the liquidators of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International after a High Court judge yesterday made a provisional ruling that the Bank was not liable.

Mr Justice Clarke agreed to take further submissions from Deloitte & Touche, the liquidators, and the Bank over whether it could be liable for breach of duty and abuse of office in relation to its supervision of BCCI. But he said his provisional view about whether the plaintiffs' alleged losses were capable of being caused in law by the alleged actions of the Bank was no.

Deloitte & Touche was suing the Bank for damagages on behalf of 6,000 depositors with more than £500 million on deposit at BCCI when it collapsed in July 1991. The case is the first action on such a large scale against the Bank.

The liquidators viewed the provisional ruling in a far more positive light. In a statement of their interpretation of the ruling, the judge answered that the Bank could be liable "provided it was shown it had a proper appreciation of the probability of the alleged abuse of power causing loss to depositors".

However, a Bank spokesman said: "The Bank is pleased with the provisional judgment, the central conclusions of which are that currently the Bank is not capable of being held liable to the plaintiffs for misfeasance of public office and that the plaintiffs' alleged losses were not caused in law by the Bank."

NatWest Markets warned

BY PATRICIA TEHAN
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Takeover Panel has given a severe warning to NatWest Markets after analysts published a note recommending Rentokil's hostile £1.8 billion bid for BET, failing to disclose its relationship with Rentokil.

Paul Morland and David Allchurch published research last week called *No Way Out*. They said: "Rentokil's exemplary track record makes it a fearsome opponent and BET appears to have little chance of escaping its clutches. We conclude in this note that Rentokil's initial offer is generous and BET shareholders should not assume it will be raised."

But they did not reveal that NWM is aligned with Rentokil, as underwriter for the bid's debt and equity. The Panel has told NatWest it must not use that research again and any other must make clear the bank is associated with the Rentokil bid and must be approved by the Panel.

Pennington, page 27

Cup overflows for Edwards with United share sale

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

DIRECTORS of Manchester United, still celebrating their club's FA Cup semi-final success, have raised £7.4 million through share sales.

Martin Edwards, chief executive, is probably ordering his team's champagne after cashing in shares worth £2.1 million. He took advantage of Manchester United's recent stock market success to sell off 785,000 shares, at 270p, which he has held since the company floated at 80p in 1991. His wife and the family trust also sold a further 850,000 shares at the same price, raising £2.3 million.

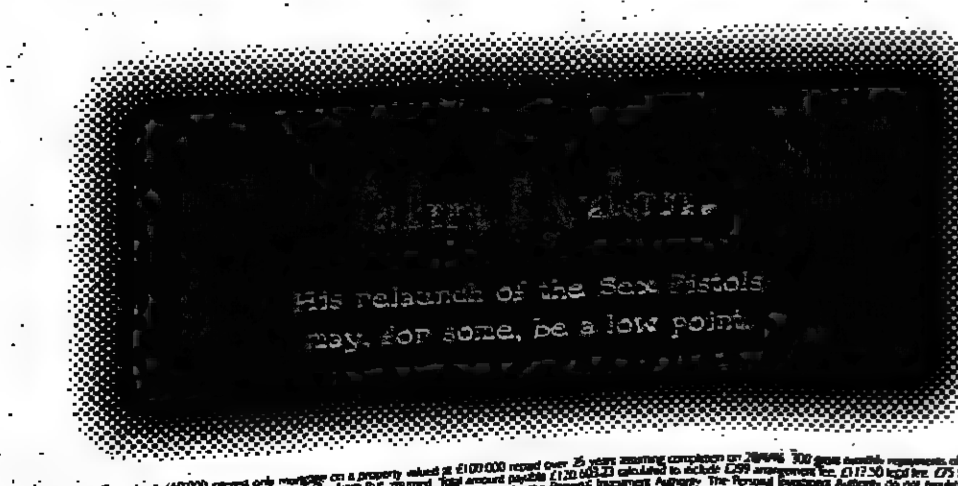
The deal, made ahead of Sunday's FA Cup semi-final triumph, will result in Mr Edwards reducing his beneficial holding in the company from around 25.8 per cent to 23.2 per cent. He was unavailable to comment on the sale yesterday. But United said that he had sold at the end of the closed period and that he had made a commitment not to make any further sales in the next six months without the prior consent of Merrill Lynch, the broker.

Amer AlMidani, a non-executive director, raised £2 million selling 750,000 shares. He retains a 2.93 per cent interest. Robin Launders, financial director, made a profit of £1 million after exercising 500,0000 share options at 67.8p. Shares in Manchester United closed unchanged at a record high of 292p.

☐ Cup defeat did not seem to dampen Chelsea fans enthusiasm for shares in Chelsea Village, the parent company of Chelsea Football Club. Robin Ellis and Co, the company's brokers, described the first day trading in Chelsea shares on the Alternative Investment Market as proceeding "beautifully". The share price closed up 5p at 60p with around 4 million shares, out of the 9 million available, sold.

Martin Edwards sold 785,000 shares at 270p yesterday

Empty seats, page 48



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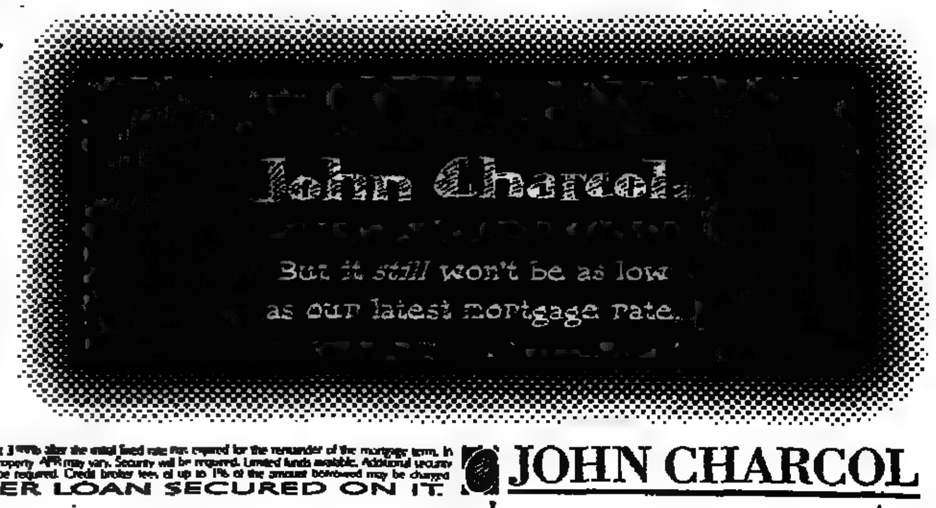

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JOHN CHARCOL

Britain backs US over job security

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BRITAIN yesterday seized on a new idea from America on job security in a clear attempt to fend off Labour attacks over widespread feelings of greater insecurity at work.

America proposed at the G7 jobs summit in Lille that countries should aim for "security of employability" — people's confidence of being hired again even if they lose their jobs — in a move that was immediately endorsed by the UK.

Tony Blair is pressing the Government on the issue of what Labour claims is extensive job insecurity, and ministers were delighted that they were able to endorse an idea from the Democrat US Government, which has strong links with the Labour leadership, in setting a new target for job security.

Joseph Stiglitz, chairman of Bill Clinton's council of economic advisers, told the meeting that people could no longer be guaranteed security of employment. Instead, he put forward the idea of "security of employability".

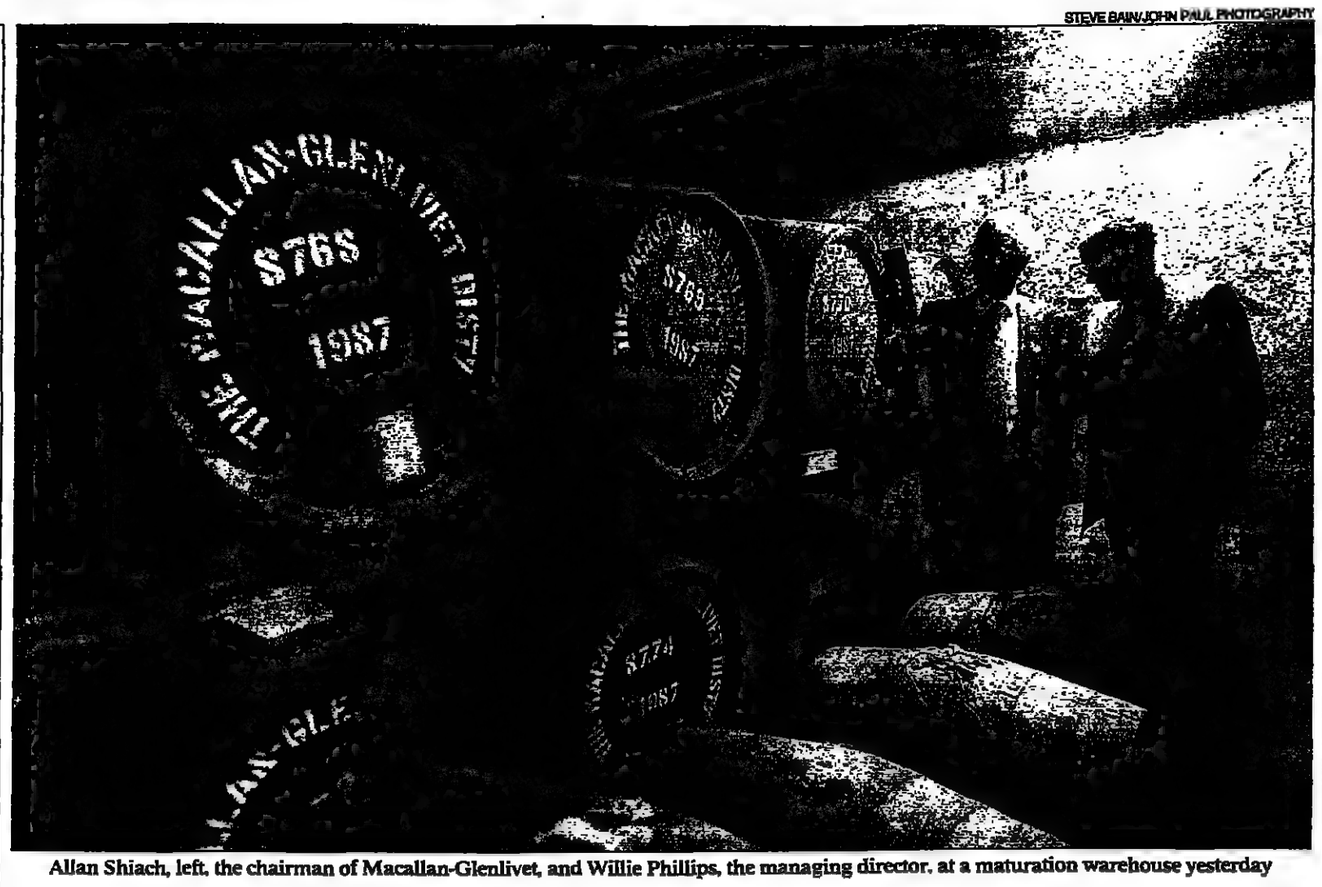
Gillian Shephard, the Employment and Education Secretary, supported the US proposal. While she did not go as far as Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, in claiming that job insecurity is merely a "state of mind", she said that job insecurity was a perception which was not borne out by labour market statistics which showed that job tenure in Britain is much the same now as a decade ago.

☐ The world economy is in the throes of a major economic upheaval which could bring growth for years to come, thanks to new developments in technology, Jean-Claude Paye, OECD Secretary-General, said in Lille yesterday. But he said that Europe's generous welfare systems would have to change to reduce the ranks of the unemployed.

Several countries, notably France and the United States, had asked the OECD to find out whether there was a case for trade sanctions against countries which exploited workers, for example by using children and prisoners.

Leading article, page 19
Pennington, page 27

STEVE BAIN/JOHN PAUL PHOTOGRAPHY



Allan Shiach, left, the chairman of Macallan-Glenlivet, and Willie Phillips, the managing director, at a maturation warehouse yesterday

Bank fights back over fund's $50m black hole

By Jon Ashworth

INVESTIGATORS have uncovered a $50 million black hole at the heart of an investment fund formerly monitored by Morgan Stanley, the investment bank. The discovery will fuel controversy over the bank's role as administrator and custodian of The Global Opportunity Fund, which collapsed a year ago, prompting investors to sue for "gross negligence".

Morgan Stanley denies negligence in certifying valuations which gave the impression that the $120 million fund was doing spectacularly well. Investors were unaware that an investment in Italian telecom warrants had sent values plunging.

Morgan Stanley claims it is the victim of fraud by a third party, who submitted false valuations which were accepted in good faith. However, documents seen by *The Times* show that the bank had conflicting figures in its books at least 18 months prior to the fund's collapse. In December 1994, the warrants were valued by Morgan Stanley in Luxembourg at $28.2 million. A separate valuation used by Morgan Stanley in London valued them at only $13.3 million.

Morgan Stanley says chinese walls would prevent London and Luxembourg from picking up on the discrepancy. The two offices fall under the overall control of Sir David Walker, chairman of Morgan Stanley Group (Europe).

The Global Opportunity Fund was valued by Morgan Stanley at $76 million shortly before its collapse in February 1995. After the collapse, Morgan Stanley seized the shares in the fund, replacing directors with its own employees under Stuart Hendel, chairman.

After selling most of the remaining investments via its broking arm, Morgan Stanley could only find $25 million of assets in the fund, leaving a black hole of nearly $50 million. Morgan Stanley then paid $23 million to itself in respect of loans advanced to investors. A further $2 million was paid to Morgan Stanley in Luxembourg in escrow, and $480,000 was set aside as a "fighting fund" aimed at warding off potential claims.

Investors began legal action against the bank in Luxembourg three months ago, alleging losses of up to $70 million. Morgan Stanley responded by launching proceedings against the investors at the High Court in London, seeking to recover the balance of an estimated $45 million in loans.

David Lee, of Lee & Allen, the firm leading the investigation, said: "From what I have seen so far, if anyone had known the true position of the fund, they would never have put any money into it." Morgan Stanley said claims were without merit and would be "vigorously" contested.

Aetna buys US Healthcare

From Richard Thomson in New York

AETNA Life & Casualty, a leading US insurance and financial services group, is buying US Healthcare in a $9 billion deal that will create a new giant in the burgeoning American healthcare industry.

The move is part of a reorientation at Aetna away from general insurance and is subject to the successful sale of Travelers Group — an insurance subsidiary — for $4 billion which is likely to go through in the next few days. Aetna has targeted healthcare as a growth industry and has for several months been looking to expand its already substantial operation in that field.

With US Healthcare it will provide services to 23 million people — one in every 12 Americans — making it one of the largest providers in the country of medical services. Healthcare companies, which have emerged as a dominant force on the US medical scene over the past few years, concentrate on cutting the cost of medical care in order to keep a lid on soaring medical insurance bills.

US Healthcare has a reputation for being one of the best-managed companies in its field, with a higher profit margin than almost any of its competitors. Last year, it made $380 million profit on revenues of $3.6 billion compared with a $474 million profit on revenues of $13 billion for the whole of Aetna's operations.

Macallan serves up profits increase

By Alasdair Murray

MACALLAN-GLENLIVET, the whisky producer, raised spirits in the troubled drinks sector by reporting a 6 per cent rise in profits to £7 million.

Shares in the company, which specialises in single malt whisky, closed up 10p at 161p. It said that sales of its Macallan brand had been strong and it was confident of continued advances this year.

Overall turnover increased 9 per cent to £18.75 million. The total dividend was raised 15 per cent to 1.455p.

A final dividend of 0.985 (0.855) is payable on May 16.

Macallan-Glenlivet said that a restructuring of the marketing department should enable the company to continue to develop its brands. It added that it was making substantial investments in stocks and casks in anticipation of further growth.

In January, Highland Distilleries, a rival whisky producer, bought a 26 per cent stake in the company for £47 million. Highland purchased the stake from Remy-Martin, the troubled French drinks company. At the time, Highland said that the stake would improve its brand portfolio while easing debt pressures on Remy-Martin in which it has a 10 per cent stake.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

BAe to cut 250 jobs at Prestwick plant

BRITISH AEROSPACE is to cut 250 jobs at its Prestwick plant near Ayr. The redundancies will come among the 900 workers at its Jet Stream assembly line where production of the J41 aircraft is being reduced from 30 a year to 20 a year. Some of the job losses are caused by cessation of production of the larger JC61 turbo-prop aircraft.

The contraction comes just three months after British Aerospace completed a marketing joint venture in regional aircraft with ATR, the Franco-Italian turbo prop maker. Under the new arrangements, the marketing of the aircraft produced by Jet Stream, and Avro, its sister company, is carried out from France by Aero International Region.

Dockyard sale

WORKERS were last night braced for the controversial sell-off of the Devonport and Rosyth Royal Dockyards. The Government is today expected to announce that Devonport would retain the multi-billion pound work to refit the Royal Navy's nuclear submarines. The privatisation will place a 51 per cent controlling share of Devonport in the hands of Brown & Root, the American engineering contractor. Labour voiced its deep concerns at the decision to give responsibility for refitting Britain's nuclear deterrent to an overseas company.

Midland loan offers

MIDLAND BANK joined the mortgage war yesterday by offering a 3 per cent first-year variable-rate discount for first-time buyers, home movers and remortgagers, and a loyalty bonus for Midland mortgage customers who are moving home. First-time buyers who take a variable-rate mortgage will be given a £750 cash payment in addition to the discount during the first year of the mortgage. The current variable rate for a mortgage between £50,000 and £99,999 is 7.4 per cent APR.

Standard deposits plan

STANDARD LIFE, Europe's largest mutual life assurance company, is to compete directly with building societies by introducing a deposit account service later this year for policyholders whose contracts are maturing. It will initially operate as a postal investment account although the company is considering a telephone-based operation. Standard Life will market the product and a host bank will carry out the underlying banking. The mutual confirmed it had been in discussions with Bank of Scotland concerning the issue.

House prices rise

BRITAIN'S biggest mortgage lender will today report a March increase of 1.2 per cent in the Halifax house price index. On an annually adjusted basis, the rate of house price inflation in the UK remains positive, at 1.7 per cent, compared with just 0.2 per cent in February. In spite of the more bullish outlook, the Halifax continues to forecast a rise of 2 per cent for the year, but will review that "if the pattern of recent months is sustained". New house prices remained volatile, with a rise of 1.6 per cent in March, after a 3.3 per cent fall in February.

Scotia raises £10m

SCOTIA HOLDINGS, the biopharmaceutical group, has raised £10.2 million through a placing of new shares with a prominent US institutional investor. The placing price of 620p is substantially higher than the 380p at which shares were issued in a £33 million open offer last summer. David Horrobin, Scotia's chief executive, said the unnamed US institution had made an unsolicitied approach, and had taken a stake of about 1.5 per cent. Scotia will use the new money to accelerate the development of Foscan, a cancer drug.

P&P to acquire Myriad

P&P, the UK recruitment firm, has agreed to buy Myriad Group, a supplier of contract and permanent information technology personnel, for a maximum sum of £12.5 million. Myriad, which has six offices in Britain, posted an operating profit of £1.82 million, on the strength of sales of £28.97 million, for the year to November 30, 1995. At its last year-end, the company had net assets of £1.2 million and net cash of £54,000. On the stock exchange, the price of P&P shares fell 1p to 141p yesterday.

Nikkei at four-year high

TOKYO stocks ended at a four-year high yesterday, helped by the dollar's rise to the 107-yen level and expectations that fresh money would enter the market in the new fiscal year. The Nikkei average closed up 153.54 points, at 21,560.39, while the June futures contract advanced 180 points to 21,650. The Nikkei's close was its highest since 21,819.52, on February 10, 1992. Masanobu Kaizu, strategist at Nomura Research Institute, said the Nikkei might aim at 23,000 in its current rally, the third since the average hit an intra-day low of 14,295.90 on July 3, 1995.

Lower gas bills likely

CONSUMERS are likely to benefit from price cuts of about 15 per cent soon after the liberalisation of the domestic gas market but the low prices will not last, according to MarketLine International, the market research company. Domestic gas bill reductions will not be sustainable in the long term, with gas bills rising after three to four years. As the surplus of gas is reduced by the UK interconnector — a pipeline siphoning gas to the Continent — prices will increase, because high European prices will push up UK prices.

Correction

MARKS & SPENCER is investigating opportunities offered by the retail market in Australia as part of a long-term strategy to evaluate new markets but the company's immediate development focus is in continental Europe and the Far East (March 27).

BET is a multinational support services group providing specialist outsourcing to industrial, commercial and public sector customers

BET

Dividend forecast update

FREEPHONE 0800 771177

BET is subject to a bid from Rentokil
Sir Christopher Hogg, Chairman of BET, can be heard on the above freephone number with an updated message for shareholders.

Investment in Apricot boosts jobs

By Martin Barrow

JAPAN'S Mitsubishi Electric Corporation is to invest £131 million in Apricot Computers, its British subsidiary, creating more than 400 jobs in the UK and 300 in mainland Europe.

Mitsubishi plans to increase output of personal computers at Apricot's Glenrothes facility near Edinburgh to about 500,000 units each year, doubling the workforce there to 600. Another 100 jobs will be created at the company's R&D centre in Birmingham.

Apricot is the 12th biggest seller of computers in the UK, accounting for about 3 per cent of market share. Around 60 per cent of the company's sales are in Britain, the majority to business users.

Mitsubishi plans to increase worldwide production 400 per cent by the year 2000 to a million computers a year.

Kleinwort gives Dresdner a lift

By Patricia Tehan, Banking Correspondent

DRESDNER BANK said yesterday that the £1 billion acquisition of Kleinwort Benson last year would have a positive effect on net commission income in 1996 and had made a major contribution to a 1.7 per cent rise in group net commission income last year.

Kleinwort had made a good start to 1996, according Juergen Sarrazin, Dresdner chief executive, as he unveiled the bank's 1995 results. Without the contribution from Kleinwort in the last quarter of 1995, net commission income would have been down, he said.

Dresdner's operating profits were up 22 per cent at DM1.99 billion, and net profits were DM1.2 billion, compared with the DM1 billion made in 1994.

The bank also said it was "confident" for the current year and expected earnings to match last year's levels achieved.

It also expected improved earning after reorganising its retail banking strategy and further optimising its corporate business strategy.

In own account trading, the bank expects an "appropriate" contribution to earnings.

In 1995, trading income was boosted by improved earnings in bond trading.

Income from forex and precious metal trading was "clearly higher", while derivatives trading income remained steady at a high level, the group said.

Securities trading contributed DM164.5 million to the bank's own-account trading result of DM592.5 million, while forex and precious metals accounted for DM110.2 million.

Liquidity shortage in gas market

By Carl Mortished

A SUDDEN spike in the price of gas has exposed a severe shortage of liquidity in the new gas market set up to deal with free price competition.

The flexibility market, which is operated by TransCo, the British Gas subsidiary, and was set up to ensure sufficient gas remained in the system, almost came to grief in March when Transco was unable to secure sufficient supplies from shippers.

The liquidity crisis forced the pipeline operator to buy gas from British Gas Trading, a subsidiary, at vastly inflated prices. 148p per therm compared with average spot prices of 10p per therm.

The cost of the exercise has exceeded the £10 million budget agreed by the parties to the Network Code. A crisis meeting was convened at the request of Ofgas, whose director general is Clare Spottiswoode, to discuss the market's illiquidity and accusations by certain parties of gaming. According to Wood Mackenzie, the oil consultants, the problem emerged because gas shippers were unprepared. "The shippers were not geared up to cope with the new flexibility market. You need 24 hour cover, seven days a week." On Saturday, March 9, a cold snap left TransCo with insufficient supplies to meet anticipated demand and it called for gas using the AT system, a computer link-up between the shippers and the pipeline operator. However, the only offer was from British Gas Trading's Rough field, a storage facility, at 73p per therm. Two days later TransCo sought bids at 2am to balance the system and was required to buy high-cost liquefied natural gas, again from British Gas Trading, at 148p per therm. According to Wood Mackenzie the bids were worth several million pounds.

Spottiswoode: meeting

At the March meeting, BG Trading agreed to retrospectively cap its gains from the sales to the flexibility market at a price of 35p per therm. A spokesman from BGT said "The market was in danger of being suspended."

Tempus, page 26

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.04	1.88
Austria Sch	16.90	15.40
Belgium Fr	49.45	45.15
Canada $	2.178	2.018
Cyprus Cyp£	0.750	0.695
Denmark Kr	9.34	8.54
Finland Mkk	7.65	7.00
France Fr	8.11	7.46
Germany Dm	2.41	2.20
Greece Dr	389.00	364.00
Hong Kong $	12.44	11.44
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1400	4.4900
Italy Lira	2502.00	2347.00
Japan Yen	178.10	162.10
Malta	0.590	0.535
Netherlds Gld	2.682	2.452
New Zealand $	2.38	2.16
Norway Kr	10.40	9.60
Portugal Esc	244.50	226.00
S Africa Rd	6.59	5.79
Spain Pta	197.00	184.00
Sweden Kr	10.83	10.03
Switzerland Fr	1.95	1.77
Turkey Lira	112370.	104370.
USA $	1.622	1.492

* Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

هكذا من الأصل

☐ Technical hitch could mar British Energy debut ☐ Is Rentokil's first step far enough? ☐ The cost of Gummer's wet proposals

Fall-out from nuclear flotation

☐ ONE problem solved, and another rears its head for the snake-oil salesmen charged by the Government with packaging the two big privatisations and selling them to the public this year. Railtrack has a form of words from the Labour Party that will allow it to be sold, and British Energy, the nuclear generator, has forced a climbdown over the debt to be included in the sale.

Now comes concern about the words that may have to be included in the prospectus for the latter on the fascinating but deeply technical matter of on-load refuelling at its advanced gas cooled reactors (AGRs). This, put simply, involves refuelling the plant while it is still running.

The process has worked without a hitch so far, and continues to work at two AGRs, at Hunterston and Hinckley. But an incident at Heysham 2 reactor has forced the practice to be abandoned both there and at the twin Torness plant in Scotland.

It must be emphasised, before most of the inhabitants of the surrounding countryside plan extended holidays, that the problem has no implications for safety. The Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, the government watchdog on these matters, has no concerns. But if the technical hitch, the jamming of one fuel rod during insertion at Heysham, cannot be resolved over the next six weeks or so — and insiders at British Energy reckon the odds about 50/50 — mention will have to be included in the prospectus of the difficulties.

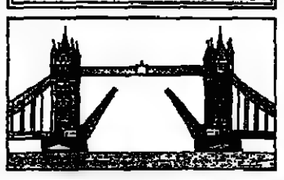
The implications of this are twofold. First, the City generally claims to be deeply nervous about the nuclear flotation, and any technical hitches that are only dimly understood will only increase those nerves, so forcing the price down. Second, the flotation is being sold on the back of some research from BZW, the Government's financial adviser, which has already been called into question by sources at the company itself as being too optimistic — and that research assumes on-load fuelling at all British Nuclear's AGRs.

There are two things that can go wrong at British Nuclear, safety considerations excepting. The company is heavily dependent on the price of electricity in the "pool" or free market. Most forecasts, and many contracts currently being signed, suggest that price in the medium term is in slow decline. The cost at which British Energy can generate, currently comfortably below the pool price, will have to fall in parallel to maintain current levels of profitability.

The second factor is the level of capacity at which the stations operate, the average plant load factor. Running at just short of 70 per cent in the last financial year, this is forecast to rise to well above 80 per cent by BZW, but this on the back of that assumption about on-load fuelling. This last is expected to add five percentage points to plant load, the research says. Again according to BZW, each 1 per cent reduction would take £140 million off British Energy's value.

BET-ting enough will be enough

PENNINGTON



THE STYLISED little pavane that is a City takeover requires that the bidder's first step is never its last, because the market expects the first offer to be pitched too low.

It comes about occasionally, perhaps through an especially inept defence or some unexpected problems flushed out at the target company, that this first step is enough. The £1.9 billion bid from Rentokil for BET may be one such case, after a deeply underwhelming last throw of the dice from BET and despite the curious row that has blown up over NatWest's research.

The dividend forecast that is supposed to save BET failed to move the shares much yesterday. According to the market, therefore, the game should be over and BET dead in the water, the value of Rentokil's first terms now standing just a couple of pence below the share price.

The dividend forecast was unimpressive because it was not greatly out of kilter with what the market had been expecting as BET's response to the bid. It also covers a period, the financial year just begun, that started on the day that the prediction was made, which smacks of desperation. When that dividend comes to be confirmed, should BET stay independent, rather more than a year's trading will have ensued, and it is hard to see what firm assumptions can be made at this stage about such trading.

Clive Thompson, Rentokil's chief executive, has pitched the bid terms carefully, which is as well for him. His company's explosive growth in recent years has required a series of cheap acquisitions that have fed immediately into profits via enhanced margins. The chances must be growing that BET will provide another, if the bid is kept at this level. He certainly cannot be seen to overpay.

As to NatWest's role, the research complained of should certainly have contained some indication of the large sum the broker can expect to earn from the bid, which is a good working definition of an aligned party. The trouble is, and this has been a feature of many huge share issues, the jam is spread so widely around these days that the supply of non-aligned parties to provide impartial advice is strictly limited.

Mild flooding, little damage

☐ THE few pence off water company shares by the close of play yesterday, in response to what looks like a last desperate fling to gain a few votes out of the whole utilities mess, looks like the normal reaction by the stock market to any unexpected turn of events. There is little in the proposals to send investors running for cover.

Consider the uncertainties. The market largely expects Labour to win the next election, in which case the proposals are an irrelevance. If Labour wins, tougher regulation for all utilities, water including, should already be built into share prices.

The proposals are limited to large users, but a rolling programme of competition to be introduced gradually throughout the market, right down to the domestic user, is promised. Much the same is already under way in the gas and electricity industries, the former dogged with delays and the latter probably doomed to suffer the same.

Now consider just one of the inconsistencies. If a company loses customers and as a result profits, can it cut back on the necessary capital spending, so requiring its remaining consumers to suffer in terms of water quality and availability? Or should the regulator's "K" factors that govern prices be adjusted, so again penalising customers by larger bills?

The main effect of these proposals will be on possible takeovers in the sector, and even this will be limited. If more competition means profits will be less predictable, this only raises the importance of the cost savings available from mergers.

Another one behind

IT IS all very well switching from secure employment for all to a reliance that if one unsafe job folds there will be another along in a minute, which is the Government line at the G7 summit. But jobs are not like buses; what works in America, an economy capable of generating as many as 700,000 new vacancies a month, may not work in these small isles, where jobs and buses are rather less frequent.

Burmah Castrol profits driven by Asian advance

By Carl Mortished

EMERGING markets in Asia are driving profits forward at Burmah Castrol, the lubricants and chemicals group, but the company sees weak demand from consumers in Europe and North America.

Burmah, which owns Castrol GTX, scored a 20 per cent gain in volumes across Asia, helping to raise profits in its lubricants division by 13 per cent, to £204 million, while recovery in chemicals boosted profits by 28 per cent to £62 million. At the pre-tax level, profits grew 15 per cent, to £253 million, and Burmah is paying a final dividend of 11.25p. The foreign income dividend is 14p, while the total cash dividend rises 11.5 per cent to 36.25p.

Burmah continues to invest heavily in developing its brand, spending £90 million on promoting Castrol last year. A regional headquarters has been established in Hong Kong to drive growth in a region that contributed more than a third of the profits from lubricants.

Jonathan Fry, chief executive, said the company is targeting 10 to 15 per cent of the market in China, where it is investing in a lubricants blending plant. "Volumes in Asia should overtake Europe in 1997," he predicted.

Castrol profits grew 17 per cent in Europe despite flat volumes and weak consumer demand. Mr Fry said that gains came from strong industrial markets and trading up by consumers from standard to synthetic lubricants, which are sold at higher margins. Trading up had contributed a quarter of the lubricants profit gain, he said.

Mr Fry was dismissive of the threat to its market position in Europe from the BP/Mobil joint venture in fuels and lubricants, suggesting it would be "a difficult thing to execute".

Profits from lubricants in the United States were up 9 per cent to £74 million due to growth in the industrial market. Castrol suffered a £9 million loss in Brazil. Burmah's chemicals business suffered a slowdown in the second half.

Gearing fell to 20 per cent at the year-end and is expected to fall further after receipt of £180 million from the sale of Burmah's fuels businesses.

Tempus, page 28

Ashanti to buy for £65m

By Paul Durman

ASHANTI Goldfields, the Ghanaian company in which Lonrho owns a large stake, has provisionally agreed a £65 million deal that will extend its gold interests in Ghana.

Ashanti is planning to acquire International Gold Resources Corporation, a Canadian company that has a 45 per cent stake in the proposed Bibiani mine in Ghana. Bibiani is only an hour or so away from Obuasi, the rich Ashanti mine that last year produced more than 900,000 ounces of gold.

Special payout bonanza for Ulster TV investors

By Paul Durman

ULSTER Television is returning £10.5 million to its shareholders through the payment of a special dividend.

Desmond Smyth, the regional broadcaster's managing director, said the payment follows Ulster's decision last year not to apply for the cable television licence for Northern Ireland.

He said that this had made the company's future investment requirements much clearer. Although Ulster is backing TV3, the proposed new channel for the Irish Republic, it is confident it can fund this project from existing resources.

The company had accumulated net cash of £20.5 million by the end of last year.

The £1 a share special dividend will be paid on July 1.

The consequent reduction in investment income and the expectation of increased competition in the television industry has prompted Ulster to hold its final dividend at 12.5p a share. This makes a total of 22.5p, up from 20p last year.

Ulster was reporting pre-tax profits for 1995 of £8.2 million, up from £7.5 million last year. Its revenues rose from £31.4 million to £34.2 million, while operating costs climbed by £2.2 million to £27.8 million.

Ulster TV, which claims the highest audience share of any UK broadcaster, is regarded as an attractive takeover prospect in the light of the proposed relaxation of the media ownership rules. Its share price has more than doubled over the last year, yesterday rising by a further 85p to 1380p.

Mr Smyth insisted: "Our independence is a very important element of our regional identity. Increased size does not necessarily mean more competitive.

"The important thing is the ability to compete with the new channels, particularly with satellite."

Tempus, page 28

RETIREMENT

11 000 000

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STOCK MARKET | MICHAEL CLARK

Equities climb back above 3,700 level

STRONG opening gains by government securities proved just the tonic the equity market needed as it climbed back above the 3,700 level.

The gilt market was sparked into action by a drop in the purchasing managers' index during March, providing further evidence of a slowdown in the economy, and an encouraging set of money supply figures.

The FT-SE 100 index also received a boost from a positive start to trading on Wall Street after the weekend break. It eventually closed just below its best of the day with a rise of 18.7 points at 3,718.4. But trading conditions remained thin and this was reflected in low turnover that saw only 661 million shares traded by the close.

Genuine retail demand is expected to remain thin this week as the tax year draws to a close, but brokers are hoping that the latest wave of bid speculation may help to provide a few bright spots.

On the Alternative Investment Market, there was scope for consolation among Chelsea fans after their team was dumped out of the FA Cup on Sunday by Manchester United. Shares of **Chelsea Village** scored a modest premium in first-time trading after five million were placed by Ellis & Partners, the broker, at 55p. They started life at 56p before ending the day at 60p, a premium of 5p.

Just before the start of trading the group, headed by Ken Bates and Matthew Harding, was forced to issue a statement denying rumours that the company's broker had been approached by Nigel Wray, founder the *Fleet Street Newsletter*, to buy all 5 million shares. **Manchester United**, which is also still in with a chance of the Premier title, took its victory over Chelsea in its stride, closing all-square at 292p.

There was further support for the merger candidates, **BT**, up 13p at 382½p, and **Cable and Wireless**, 6p better at 538p, although both shares may come under selling pressure this morning following a statement by the Government after the official close of business. In it Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, made it clear the Government had not given any approval in principle for the merger to proceed. Should it be proposed, then the competition authorities in

Ken Bates, left, and Matthew Harding of Chelsea Village

Britain, Europe and other parts of the world would have to consider the move.

Both sides are thought to be close to agreeing terms of the £35 billion deal after intensive talks. Weekend reports claim that Deutsche Telecom, Europe's biggest telecomms company, is interested in buying C&W's Mercury arm, which includes One-2-One. By the close, a total of 26 million BT shares and 14 million C&W shares had changed hands.

Orange, the mobile phone operator, firmed 4p to 225½p on the grey market before the start of official trading later this morning that will see private investors begin dealing in the shares for the first time. Dealings began for institutional investors on the grey market last week after the issue was more than ten times oversubscribed.

At the same time, Crédit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, has issued 30 million American-styled covered warrants on Orange. The warrants will be struck at-the-money and expire on September 27, 1997. Simon Mead, of Laing, says that the issue is aimed at increasing liquidity in Orange. "Some people did not get enough of an allocation. As a result, they may be forced to go back into the market. This is a way of limiting the price they pay for their shares. It's particularly aimed at the tracker funds," he said.

Vodafone rose 6½p to 249p after it emerged the number of subscribers throughout the world had breached the three million level for the first time.

Astec (BSR), the Hong Kong-based electronic components group, firmed a further 1½p to a high of 130½p. News that the bosses of Emerson Electric are in town has fuelled talk that a bid may be on the way at last. Emerson owns almost 50 per cent of Astec, which is sitting on up to £40 million of cash.

The number of subscribers in Britain has risen to 2.45 million, an increase of 35 per cent in the financial year.

The odds were beginning to tip in favour of the £1.8 billion offer by **Rentokil** for **BET** proving successful. BET yesterday had its last throw of dice as it forecast a 21 per cent increase in the dividend for the current year to not less than 6.15p. The group has already promised to increase the dividend for the year just ended by 28 per cent.

The BET share price responded with a rise of just 1p to 204p. Rentokil, also up 1p at 363p, is now expected to come back with a higher offer to win the day. City speculators say that an increased offer of around 215p a share should be enough to swing it Rentokil's way.

The water shares suffered small losses on the day, reflecting the Government's measures designed to increase competition. **Southern** 9p to 741p and **United Utilities** 9p to 609p.

Better than expected trading news and confident comments about current trading lifted **Macallan-Glenlivet**, the whisky producer, 10p to 161p.

Full-year figures at the top end of the range from **Burmah Castrol** were rewarded with a rise of 10p to £10.67.

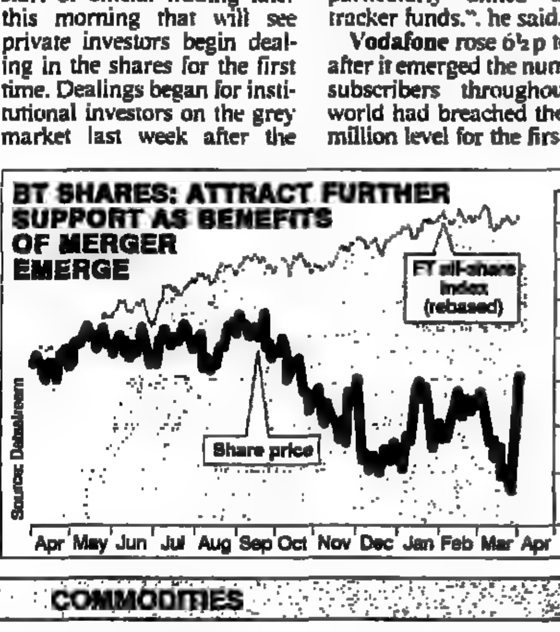
☐ **GILT-EDGED**: The bears were on the run again as prices were squeezed higher in thin trading. But genuine retail demand proved thin, with investors still reluctant to open fresh positions before publication of the US non-farm payroll numbers.

These are due out on Good Friday when the London market is closed. When they were published last month, they prompted a 177-point fall in the Dow Jones industrial average.

In the futures pit, the June series of the Long Gilt finished £$^{9}/_{16}$ better at £105$^{9}/_{32}$ as the total number of contracts completed reached 34,000.

Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was $^{5}/_{16}$ better at £102$^{3}/_{32}$, while at the longer end, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 rose £$^{5}/_{8}$ to £96$^{15}/_{16}$.

☐ **NEW YORK**: Wall Street shares were higher in early trading as mergers dominated the first trading session of the new quarter. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 17.70 points at 5,604.84.



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	5604.84 (+17.70)
S&P Composite	649.76 (+4.26)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	21560.39 (+153.54)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	10926.84 (-30.36)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	537.28 (+5.65)
Sydney:	
AO	2210.70 (-14.9)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2489.09 (+3.22)
Singapore:	
Straits	2376.03 (-11.26)
Brussels:	
General	n/a
Paris:	
CAC-40	2056.92 (+12.15)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	771.10 (+11.20)
London:	
FT 30	2781.0 (+13.0)
FT 100	3718.4 (+18.7)
FT-SE Mid 250	4326.9 (+0.2)
FT-SE-A 350	1871.2 (+7.4)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1626.48 (+6.45)
FT A All-Share	1850.22 (+6.78)
FT Non Financials	1972.51 (+6.24)
FT Fixed Interest	111.43 (+0.80)
FT Govt Secs	92.29 (+0.22)
Bargains	40481
SEAQ Volume	672.3m
USM (Datastrm)	209.00 (-0.59)
US$	1.5255 (-0.0007)
German Mark	2.2623 (+0.0042)
Exchange Index	83.6 (+0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.1919
£:SDR	1.0439
RPI	150.9 Feb (2.7%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	150.2 Feb (2.9%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Broadcastle Wts	14	- 1
Chelsea Village (55)	60	...
Easynet Group (100)	108	- 10
First Infor (165)	183	...
Fleming Wrld Inc	54	...
Flmng Wrld Uts	91	...
Fulmar (154)	190	+ 2
GT Income Gwth Tt	94	...
Hill Sml UK Emg	97	+ 1
Hill Sml UK Emg Wts	22	...
ILP Group (75)	86	...
IOC Intl	126	- 5
Life Off Opp (100)	54	...
Macdonald Htl (145)	189	- 1
Marine & Merc (125)	115	+ 2
New Asia Fund	695	...
Orange (205)	225½	+ 4
Pacific Hrzn IT C	102	...
Perp Inc Gth Ut (500)	515	+ 5
Primary Hlth (100)	103	...
Raphael Zorn (32)	34	...
Schroder UK G Uts	257	...
Silver Shield (3)	4	+ ½
Stadium Group (120)	138	...
Triad Group (135)	183	...
Visual Action (185)	260	+ 5
Western Select Wts	5	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Abbott Md Vckr (460)	78	...
Eidos Cv Ut 96/01	80	...
Fairway Gp (80)	8	...
GWR Uts Cv UL 96/01	19	- 1
VDC (675)	110	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Caird Group	214p (+20p)
Macallan-Glen	161p (+10p)
Moss Bros	745p (+35p)
Parity	228p (+10p)
Azlan	530p (+15p)
Rank Org	498p (+13p)
BT	382½p (+13p)
Redland	390p (+13p)
Powerscreen	448p (+13p)
FALLS:	
Memory Comp	137p (-18p)
Cadbury-Schw	490p (-11p)
Psion	965p (-15p)

Closing Prices Page 31

TEMPUS

Burmah's greasepaint

BURMAH Castrol's dismissive reaction to the development of retailing alliances by oil majors such as BP and Mobil sounds bumptious, but it is probably right to be confident. Brands are difficult to build but easy to destroy as oil companies have found to their cost with the disappearance of brand loyalty in the petrol market. In the short term, the upheaval caused by the phasing out of BP's lubricants, to be replaced by Mobil's products, can only be to the benefit of competitors showing one face to the public. In Europe, and unless BP and Mobil move like greased lightning, the short-term winners will be the Shell and Castrol lubricant brands.

Marketing success is generating good volume growth for Burmah. In Asia, new consumers are being converted to western brands but in Europe the job is more difficult. While more cars are on the roads, lubricant volumes are falling because new engines need less oil and Castrol's solution is to persuade consumers that their hi-tech car needs a more sophisticated (and expensive) synthetic lubricant. In Europe, that is working but it is an open question whether the American consumer will take the bait.

Better chemical margins and Asian growth should allow Castrol to expand its earnings by 8 per cent this year, justifying a market average rating but investors should not expect a bumper payout. Castrol does not have huge investment projects, leaving depreciation modest and little scope for swings in cash flow. However it needs to spend large sums every year reinforcing its brand and winning new customers and that leaves no room for windfalls.

Ulster TV

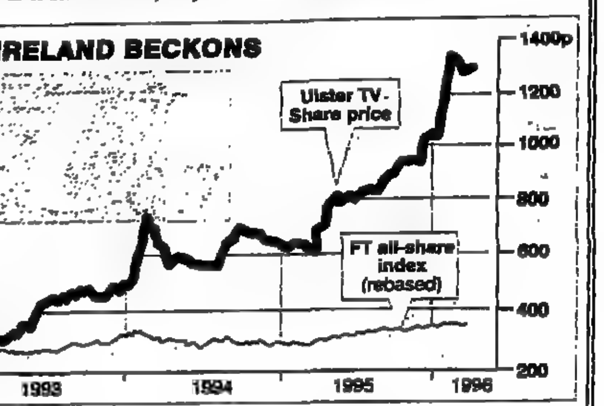
ULSTER Television made a bid for its shareholders' loyalty yesterday, offering them £1 a share as a special dividend. Ulster's excuse — that it no longer needs the money — is an unusual position to adopt in the fast-changing media world.

It is hard to escape the conclusion that Ulster's concern is less on rewarding shareholders than keeping the cash from falling into the pockets of a potential bidder, such as MAI or Granada. By any measure, Ulster has done a terrific job for its shareholders. Over the last five years, its share price has risen seven fold.

The company has secured a strong position both north and south of the Irish border. And it is making the right moves by investing in TV3, the Republic's proposed third channel. The return to violence has diminished earlier hopes of a significant share in the peace dividend. But longer term, there are still good grounds to believe that Northern Ireland could produce rapid economic growth and buoyant ad revenues.

The fact remains that Ulster is a small company in a niche market. Whatever its claims for a distinctive regional identity, its case for independence is certainly no stronger than those of LWT and Central.

After the run Ulster has enjoyed over the last year, it is hard to recommend its shares as a buy. But existing shareholders should hang on for the ride.



Insurance

NEW accounting rules should have made it easier to scrutinise life companies' profits, but the first set of annual results under the new system have made comparisons impossible. Companies are now required to show the effect of realised and unrealised gains and losses on profit and loss accounts, which sends headline figures soaring one year but could send them plummeting the next. The more volatile the investment returns, the more difficult it is to identify improvement in the underlying business.

London & Manchester is a case in point. Yesterday's year-end figures showed pre-tax profits of £57.1 million compared with a loss of £14 million in 1994. The balance sheet omitted a figure for "clean" pre-tax profit (without investment gains) for 1995, although L&M's own estimate is £44.1 million, compared with £38.9 million in 1994. The figures are further obscured by the transfer of so-called "orphan assets" from the long-term life and pensions funds, which help to swell profits.

The only universal measure therefore is the dividend. On this basis, L&M's performance is average for the sector: its dividend increased by 9 per cent for 1995, on a par with the Prudential, above Commercial Union's 7 per cent, and below Legal & General's 12.4 per cent. That leaves L&M's looking expensive. Its share price is a 40 per cent premium to net asset value, on some estimates, but the rating gives L&M scope to use its paper for acquisitions.

Gas

EVERYONE expected chaos and confusion with the launch of free competition trials in the domestic gas market. The main worry was the Network Code, the complex set of rules backed up by computer data which would tell participants who sold how much gas to whom in the brave new world of free gas pricing.

Last month, predictably, the market almost fell apart. This was not because the computer failed or because of any fault by Transco, the pipeline operator. It failed because the shippers, those eager enthusiasts so keen to sell gas and take business away from the monopoly giant, were asleep when demand piked and the price soared from 10p per therm to 150p per therm.

The flexibility market is a bit like the electricity pool and in the winter months demand can be expected to spike on occasion due to sudden shortages or cold weather.

Electricity generators run a 24-hour business to serve the public and one might have expected gas shippers to do the same, particularly when profitable business was there for the taking. Those who shout loudest do not always deliver.

CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

May	979-977	Jul	1022-1020
Jul	997-996	Sep	unq
Sep	1013-1012	Dec	...
Dec	987-986		
Mar	995-993		
May	1007-1006	Volume:	10302

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

May	1862-1860	Jan	1770-1764
Jul	1815-1814	Mar	1742-1740
Sep	1794-1792	May	1720-1710
Nov	1781-1780	Volume:	4789

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	326.8-25.0
Spot: 399.0		Mar	317.5-16.7
May	400.9-00.0	May	314.5-12.5
Aug	373.5-73.0	Aug	unq
Oct	337.8-37.0	Volume:	2836

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on March 29

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	127.89	162.28	94.72
(+/-)	+17.60	-1.26	+0.34
Eng/Wales	127.89	163.62	94.72
(+/-)	+17.60	-0.75	+1.52
(%)	+24.0	-10.0	-88.0
Scotland:	unq	157.19	unq
(+/-)	...	-4.07	...
(%)	...	-27.0	...

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	20.75	+0.55
Brent 15 day (May)	19.85	+0.55
Brent 15 day (Jun)	18.75	+0.45
W Texas Intermediate (May)	21.90	+0.45
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	20.50	+0.40

PRODUCTS ($/MT) Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 205 (+1)	O: 208 (+1)
Gasoil EEC	188 (-6)	190 (-6)
Non EEC 1H Apr	186 (-6)	189 (-5)
Non EEC 1H May	176 (-2)	179 (-1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	106 (n/c)	107 (-1)
Naphtha	187 (+2)	189 (+2)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Apr	182.50-82.75	Jul	162.25-62.50
May	172.25-72.50	Aug	160.50-60.75
Jun	165.25-65.50		Vol: 13145

BRENT (6.00pm)

May	19.85-19.86	Aug	17.56 BID
Jun	18.71 BID	Sep	17.27 BID
Jul	17.94-17.98		Vol: 16329

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	124.65	May	111.65
Jul	127.25	Sep	106.10
Sep	111.25	Nov	108.10
Nov	112.70	Jan	110.10
Jan	114.70	Mar	112.10
Volume:	331	Volume:	30

POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
Apr	160.0	165.0
May	unq	170.0
Jun	...	225.0
		Volume: 92

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k) May 103.25-103.75

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Apr 96	1510	1460	1483
May 96	1410	1400	1400
Jul 96	1300	1285	1295
Oct 96	—	—	—
Vol: 153 lots		Open Interest:	4562

Index 1449 +1

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day) — Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2514.0-2515.0	2510.0-2511.0	1741450
Lead ($/tonne)	795.00-796.00	785.00-787.00	265150
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1055.0-1056.0	1078.5-1079.0	500325
Tin ($/tonne)	6415.0-6425.0	6445.0-6450.0	21585
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1633.0-1634.0	1665.0-1666.0	1240800
Nickel ($/tonne)	8025.0-8030.0	8135.0-8140.0	72462

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	Jun 96	3705.0	3738.0	3705.0	3731.0	[illegible]
Previous open interest: 62175	Sep 96	3740.0	3740.0	3740.0	3736.0	70
FT-SE 250	Jun 96				4320.0	0
Previous open interest: 3514	Sep 96					0
Three Month Sterling	Jun 96	93.94	93.95	93.93	93.94	6527
Previous open interest: 335353	Sep 96	93.75	93.78	93.74	93.77	7840
	Dec 96	93.38	93.42	93.38	93.41	6492
Three Mth Eurodollar	Mar 96					
Previous open interest: 0						
Three Mth Euro DM	Jun 96	96.77	96.79	[illegible]	96.79	10739
Previous open interest: 1042583	Sep 96	[illegible]	96.71	96.68	96.70	12713
Long Gilt	Jun 96	104-25	105-10	104-25	105-09	34793
Previous open interest: 114105	Sep 96				104-06	0
Japanese Govmt Bond	Jun 96	119.72	119.87	119.72	119.81	1146
	Sep 96				118.68	0
German Gov Bd Bund	Jun 96	96.35	96.67	96.34	96.57	80649
Previous open interest: 221043	Sep 96	95.66	95.66	95.65	95.71	422
Three month ECU	Jun 96	95.48	95.49	95.48	95.48	698
Previous open interest: 20684	Sep 96	95.45	95.46	95.45	95.46	245
Euro Swiss Franc	Jun 96	98.30	98.33	98.28	98.30	4758
Previous open interest: 53863	Sep 96	98.17	[illegible]	98.17	98.18	2131
Italian Govmt Bond	Jun 96	108.30	108.75	108.23	108.55	29903
Previous open interest: 47540	Sep 96				108.01	0

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6½

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6 Low 5 Week fixed: 5[illegible]

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5[illegible]; 3 mth 5[illegible]. Sell: 2 mth 5[illegible]; 3 mth: 5[illegible].

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Overnight: open 6, close 5.					
Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	6	6	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.36	n/a	5.36	5.41	5.60
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2-1
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $395.20-395.50 Close: $394.50-395.00 High: $395.20-395.50 Low: $393.90-394.40 AM: $395.00 PM: $394.20

Krugerrand: $394.00-397.00 (£258.00-260.00)

Platinum: $405.00 (£265.55) Silver: $5.52 (£3.615) Palladium: $140.50 (£92.15)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for April 1	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.5246-2.5396	2.5260-2.5292	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Brussels	46.34-46.51	46.39-46.49	12-9pr	33-28pr
Copenhagen	8.7030-8.7301	8.7100-8.7320	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Dublin	0.9681-0.9715	0.9689-0.9715	9-6pr	24-20pr
Frankfurt	2.2552-2.2610	2.2579-2.2610	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Lisbon	232.73-233.56	232.94-233.56	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Madrid	189.58-190.07	189.78-190.07	35-45ds	104-121ds
Milan	2386.9-2396.9	2389.2-2393.1	7-9ds	22-25ds
Montreal	2.0627-2.0713	2.0669-2.0699	0.21-0.12pr	0.37-0.26pr
New York	1.5232-1.5266	1.5250-1.5260	0.08-0.06pr	0.225-0.195pr
Oslo	9.7870-9.8050	9.7880-9.8040	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Paris	7.6860-7.7070	7.6870-7.7050	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Stockholm	10.113-10.179	10.148-10.179	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Tokyo	163.70-164.00	163.73-164.00	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Vienna	15.859-15.926	15.879-15.926	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Zurich	1.8193-1.8233	1.8199-1.8227	[illegible]pr	2-1[illegible]pr

Source: Extel. Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2709-1.2717
Austria	10.41-10.42
Belgium (Com)	30.42-30.46
Canada	1.3547-1.3552
Denmark	5.7150-5.7180
France	5.0430-5.0450
Germany	1.4808-1.4813
Hong Kong	7.7335-7.7345
Ireland	1.5724-1.5739
Italy	1566.65-1567.15
Japan	107.43-107.48
Malaysia	2.5322-2.5332
Netherlands	1.6567-1.6572
Norway	6.4338-6.4413
Portugal	152.85-152.95
Singapore	1.4062-1.4072
Spain	124.47-124.52
Sweden	6.6465-6.6585
Switzerland	1.1944-1.1954

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5251-1.5277
Australia dollar	1.9392-1.9413
Bahrain dinar	0.5685-0.5805
Brazil real*	1.4915-1.4956
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.7010-0.7110
Finland markka	7.0275-7.1435
Greece drachma	364.50-371.50
Hong Kong dollar	11.7928-11.8013
India rupee	51.52-52.48
Indonesia rupiah	3530.0-3598.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4515-0.4615
Malaysia ringgit	3.8614-3.8652
New Zealand dollar	2.2197-2.2235
Pakistan rupee	52.49 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.4900-5.6000
Singapore dollar	2.1445-2.1471
S Africa rand (com)	6.0110-6.1130
U A E dirham	5.5375-5.6615

Barclays Bank GTS * *Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	790	Land Secs	818
ASDA Gp	16,000	Legal & Gn	1,100
Abbey Ntl	1,300	Lloyds TSB	10,000
Allied Dom	1,800	Marks Spr	3,300
Argos	2,900	NatWst Bk	1,700
Argyll Gp	1,900	Nat Grid	2,700
AB Foods	687	Nat Power	1,700
BAA	3,200	P & O	2,900
BAT Inds	3,900	Pearson	1,400
BOC	1,100	Pilkington	2,400
BP	7,300	PowerGen	1,400
BSkyB	1,300	Prudential	2,000
BTR	4,500	REXAM	1,800
BT	27,000	RMC	206
Bk of Scot	1,000	RTZ	2,600
Barclays	3,300	Rank Org	2,300
Bass	1,400	Reckitt Col	390
Blue Circle	1,000	Redland	2,100
Boots	678	Reed Intl	734
BAe	1,700	Rentokil	3,600
BA	1,900	Reuters	2,400
Brit Gas	5,100	Rolls Royce	3,400
Brit Steel	5,000	Royal Ins	1,300
Burmah Cstl	1,100	Ryl Bk Scot	5,800
Burton	2,400	Sainsbury	2,400
Cable Wire	14,000	Schroders	101
Cadbury	3,600	Scot & New	1,500
Carlton Cms	728	Scot Power	635
Cm Union	1,000	Svrn Trent	962
Cookson	4,100	Shell Trans	3,900
Courtaulds	276	Siebe	1,000
Dixons	2,700	SmKl Bch	4,500
Enterpr Oil	711	Smith Nph	1,600
For & Col IT	1,000	Smiths Inds	192
GKN	644	Sthern Elec	236
GRE	5,600	Std Chard	995
GUS	293	Sun Allnce	2,300
Gen Acc	565	TI Gp	888
Gen Elec	2,900	Tate & Lyle	1,800
Glaxo Well	4,800	Tesco	5,900
Granada	2,700	Thames W	502
Grand Met	3,100	Thrn EMI	729
Greenalls	96	Tomkins	1,600
Guinness	1,500	Unilever	1,400
HSBC	1,100	United Utils	1,300
Hanson	7,100	Vodafone	7,900
ICI	1,700	Whitbread	1,900
Kingfisher	760	Wllms Hld	1,700
LASMO	615	Wolseley	298
Ladbroke	1,800	Zeneca	1,400

LIFFE OPTIONS

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Alld Dom	460	33	39	50	0	10	15
(*492)	500	6	16	29	12	29	35
Argyll	300	12	20	25	2	12	16
(*309)	330	0	6	12	21	31	34
ASDA	100	7	11	13	0	3	5
(*106)	110	1	6	8	5	7	9
Boots	550	49	57	62	0	7	12
(*597)	600	9	23	32	9	27	32
Br Airways	500	42	51	57	0	8	13
(*541)	550	5	19	28	14	30	35
BP	550	28	40	48	1	10	16
(*576)	600	2	13	23	25	33	40
Br Steel	180	15	19	21	0	6	9
(*194)	200	2	8	11	8	17	20
C & W	500	40	50	60	2	10	20
(*537)	550	8	24	33	21	37	42
CU	550	28	40	53	1	10	20
(*576)	600	3	19	27	25	34	45
ICI	900	29	59	70	7	24	37
(*920)	950	5	34	45	33	48	62
Kingfshr	550	15	29	42	10	22	29
(*562)	600	0	10	21	50	55	59
Land Sec	600	27	35	38	0	13	17
(*625)	650	1	9	14	25	45	47
M & S	420	8	17	24	4	15	19
(*423)	460	0	4	9	37	44	46
Nat West	600	44	63	71	1	10	19
(*643)	650	9	32	43	16	30	40
Sainsbury	360	12	19	25	2	13	16
(*368)	390	1	6	12	22	32	35
Shell	800	43	60	71	0	7	14
(*840)	850	7	27	38	16	25	34
Smkl Bch	650	23	42	55	5	[illegible]	28
(*666)	700	2	19	32	35	[illegible]	54
Storehse	330	12	[illegible]	30	2	12	16
(*339)	360	1	8	16	21	28	32
Trafalgar	45	4	4	4	0	0	0
(*49)	50	0	1	[illegible]	1	1	1
Unilever	1200	19	40	61	20	33	40
(*1213)	1250	1	20	38	[illegible]	68	72
Zeneca	1350	50	98	121	11	36	55
(*1385)	1400	22	73	94	31	59	77
	Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Grnd Met	420	15	24	33	10	20	23
(*421)	460	3	9	17	39	45	48
Ladbroke	180	17	26	29	6	11	14
(*189)	200	8	16	20	16	21	24
Utd Bisc	230	18	27	31	2	6	10
(*234)	240	7	16	20	10	15	19

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
BAA	500	33	42	51	1	8	12
(*532)	550	2	14	26	19	31	39
Thames W	550	25	35	41	2	18	22
(*571)	600	2	11	16	29	49	52
	Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
BAT Ind	460	29	44	49	7	19	23
(*479)	500	10	23	29	27	40	44
BTR	300	23	32	34	1	4	8
(*330)	330	5	14	17	12	16	22
Br Aero	850	42	71	87	16	31	41
(*872)	900	17	45	61	42	56	65
Br Telcm	360	27	36	38	4	13	17
(*382)	390	9	19	22	16	28	32
Cadbury	460	37	50	57	4	9	15
(*490)	500	13	26	34	19	26	32
Guinness	460	17	32	38	7	15	21
(*465)	500	5	14	19	35	39	43
GEC	360	14	22	27	7	17	20
(*365)	390	3	9	15	26	30	38
Hanson	180	14	17	21	1	4	8
(*192)	200	3	6	11	9	14	19
LASMO	180	14	21	25	7	8	11
(*186)	200	6	12	16	16	19	22
Lucas	200	18	24	27	3	7	10
(*216)	220	6	13	16	11	19	20
Pilkingtn	210	9	16	—	9	11	—
(*213)	229	2	8	—	17	23	—
Prudential	420	21	35	43	9	[illegible]	22
(*431)	460	5	17	24	32	38	44
Redland	360	33	30	[illegible]	5	10	18
(*389)	390	13	20	25	19	26	31
R-Royce	200	18	23	28	3	7	9
(*216)	220	6	13	18	12	16	19
Tesco	260	11	17	[illegible]	8	12	17
(*267)	280	3	8	12	21	24	28
Vodafone	240	16	24	30	[illegible]	13	16
(*249)	260	6	15	20	16	23	26
Williams	300	23	25	27	3	6	9
(*321)	330	4	9	12	[illegible]	21	35

FT-SE INDEX (*3720)

	3600	3650	3700	3750	3800	3850
Calls						
Apr	137	88	51	24	9	2
May	148	110	78	51	31	17
Jun	170	134	102	75	52	36
Jul	187	155	124	98	75	56
Dec	259	—	197	—	150	—
Puts						
Apr	8	13	27	51	85	135
May	23	34	52	75	106	143
Jun	43	56	74	[illegible]	124	159
Jul	56	74	93	117	144	175
Dec	107	—	144	—	194	—

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Jun	Sep	Dec	Jun	Sep	Dec
Abby Nat	550	39	49	60	11	21	25
(*570)	600	14	24	35	36	48	51
Amstrad	180	17	23	26	7	10	12
(*186)	200	7	13	17	17	20	22
Barclays	700	46	60	69	12	24	29
(*734)	750	19	34	44	36	49	53
Blue Circ	330	20	28	34	10	17	21
(*340)	360	7	14	20	28	33	37
Br Gas	220	12	15	18	9	12	16
(*228)	240	3	7	10	22	24	28
Dixons	420	[illegible]	48	56	7	15	17
(*449)	460	19	[illegible]	36	23	33	35
Forte	341	13	17	—	2	5	—
(*352)	373	1	4	—	21	22	—
Tarmac	110	7	11	14	6	9	10
(*111)	120	3	7	10	13	15	16
Hillsdwn	180	9	11	13	8	11	13
(*184)	200	2	4	6	24	26	27
Lonrho	200	21	23	29	4	7	9
(*214)	220	9	12	18	12	16	18
Sears	90	10	12	13	1	3	4
(*99)	100	3	7	8	6	8	9
Thorn	1700	[illegible]	110	135	52	82	93
(*1709)	1800	45	69	91	111	140	151
Tomkins	240	22	26	28	3	8	11
(*255)	260	10	14	18	11	19	21
Lloyds TSB	292	34	—	—	3	—	—
(*318)	322	15	—	—	14	—	—
	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Glaxo W	800	24	50	68	7	25	39
(*814)	850	8	27	44	37	51	66
HSBC	1000	26	69	[illegible]	15	41	59
(*1010)	1050	8	45	64	46	67	85
Reuter	700	[illegible]	[illegible]	71	3	19	28
(*725)	750	6	31	44	27	43	52
	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Royal Ins	330	27	39	45	0	7	13
(*356)	360	[illegible]	21	28	9	19	26
	Series	Jun			Jun		
Fisons	260	7	—	—	5	—	—
(*265)	280	0	—	—	19	—	—
	Series	May			May		
Eastern Gp	950	31	—	—	0	—	—
(*975)	1000	0	—	—	27	—	—
	Series	Jun	Sep	Dec	Jun	Sep	Dec
Natl Pwr	460	33	36	43	12	18	23
(*478)	500	13	17	24	36	41	45
Scot Pwr	330	26	32	35	5	10	12
(*347)	360	10	16	20	17	26	28

April 1, 1996 Tot: 31864 Call: 21279 Put: 10585 FT-SE Call: 7226 Put: 4349

*Underlying security price.

WALL STREET

	Apr 1 midday	Mar 29 close
AMP Inc	41	41
AMR Corp	[illegible]	89
ASA	46	46
AT & T	61	61
Abbott Labs	41	40
Advanced Micro	17	17
Aetna Life	73	73
Ahmanson (HF)	24	24
Air Prod & Chem	59	58
AirTouch Comm	31	31
Alberto-Culver B	38	38
Albertson's	37	37
Alcan Aluminium	32	32
Alco Standard	52	52
Allied Signal	59	59
Alum Co of Am	60	62
Amax Gold Inc	6	6
Amerada Hess	54	53
Amer Brands	43	42
Amer El Power	41	41
Amer Express	49	49
Amer Genl Corp	34	34
Amer Home Pr	109	108
Amer Intl	93	93
Amer Stores	32	33
Amer Standard	28	29
Ameritech	54	54
Amoco	72	72
Anheuser-Busch	66	67
Apple Computer	24	24
Archer Daniels	18	18
Armco	5	5
Armstrng Wrld	60	62
Asarco	34	35
Ashland Oil	38	38
Atl Richfield	118	119
Auto Data Pro	38	38
Avery Dennison	54	54
Avon Products	90	89
Baker Hughes	29	29
Baltim Gas & El	27	27
Banc One	36	35
BankAmerica	76	77
Bank of NY	51	51
Bankers Tr NY	71	70
Barnett Banks	62	62
Bausch & Lomb	37	37
Baxter Intl	45	45
Becton Dickinson	81	81
Bell Atlantic	63	61
Bell Industries	21	21
BellSouth	36	37
Black & Decker	38	37
Block (H&R)	37	36
Boeing	86	86
Boise Cascade	41	42
Bristol Myrs Sq	85	85
Browning Ferris	31	31
Brunswick	23	23
Burlington Nthn	81	82
CMS Energy Corp	29	29
CNA Financial	110	113
CPC Intl	69	69
CSX	45	45
Campbell Soup	62	60
Can Pacific	20	20
Carolina Pwr	37	37
Caterpillar	67	68
Central & SW	28	28
Champion Intl	44	45
Chase Manhtn	71	72
Chevron Corp	56	56
Chrysler	62	62
Chubb Corp	96	95
Cigna Corp	115	114
Citicorp	80	80
Clorox	87	86
Coastal Corp	39	39
Coca Cola	83	82
Colgate-Palmolive	78	77
Columbia Gas	45	45
Columbia/HCA	56	57
Compaq Comp	38	38
Comp Ass Intl	72	71
Conagra	40	40
Conrail	71	71
Cons Edison	32	31
Cons Nat Gas	43	43
Cooper Inds	36	36
Corestates	42	42
Corning Inc	35	35
Crown Cork	40	40
Dana Corp	33	33
Dayton Hudson	85	84
Deere	41	41
Delta Air Lines	77	78
Deluxe Corp	31	31
Digital Equip	54	55
Dillard Dept St	34	34
Disney (Walt)	64	63
Dominion Res	39	39
Donnelley (RR)	35	34
Dover Corp	46	45
Dow Chemical	86	86
Dow Jones	38	38
Dresser	30	30
Duke Power	51	50
Dun & Bradstreet	60	60
Du Pont	83	83
Eastman Chem	60	60
Eastman Kodak	71	71
Eaton Corp	60	60
Edison Intl	17	17
Emerson Elec	82	80
Engelhard Corp	23	23
Enron Corp	37	36
Entergy	28	28
[illegible] Corp	10	9
Exxon	82	81
FMC Corp	75	75
FPL Group	45	45
Federal Express	71	69
Fed Nat Mtge	32	31
First Bk Sys	60	59
First Union Rlty	7	7
Fleet Finl Grp	40	40
Fluor Corp	67	68
Ford Motor	34	34
GTE Corp	44	43
Gannett	67	67
Gap Inc Del	33	33
Gen Dynamics	58	58
Gen Electric	78	77
Gen Mills	58	59
Gen Motors	54	53
Gen Reinsurance	146	149
Gen Signal	36	36
Genuine Parts	45	45
Georgia Pac	68	68
Gillette	51	51
Glaxo Welc ADR	24	25
Goodrich (BF)	70	70
Goodyear Tire	51	51
Grace (WR)	77	78
Gt Atl Pac Tea	20	21
Great Wstn Fin	23	24
Halliburton	58	56
Harcourt General	44	45
Heinz (HJ)	33	33
Hercules	62	62
Hershey Foods	74	74
Hewlett Packard	96	98
Hilton Hotels	96	94
Home Depot	47	47
Homestake Mng	19	19
Honeywell	55	55
Household Intl	66	67
Houston Inds	22	21
Humana	25	25
ITT Corp	60	60
Illinois Tool	65	64
Illinova	28	28
INCO	31	31
Ingersoll Rand	40	40
Inland Steel	24	24
Intel Corp	56	56
IBM	112	111
Intl Flav & Fr	46	47
Intl Paper	38	39
James River Va	25	25
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	93	92
Kellogg	75	75
Kerr-McGee	64	63
Kimberly-Clark	74	74
Kmart	9	9
Knight-Ridder	64	64
Lilly (Eli)	65	65
Limited Inc	19	19
Lincoln Nat	52	53
Litton	46	46
Liz Claiborne	34	34
Lockheed Martin	75	75
Louisiana Pac	24	24
MCI Comm	30	30
Marriott Int	43	47
Marsh & McLnn	93	92
Masco Corp	28	29
May Dept St	47	48
Maytag Corp	20	20
McDonalds	48	48
McDonnell D	92	91
McGraw Hill	87	86
Mead Corp	53	54
Medtronic	57	57
Mellon Bk	55	55
Melville Corp	36	35
Merck Inc	62	62
Merrill Lynch	61	61
Microsoft	102	103
Minnesota Mine	64	64
Mobil Corp	116	115
Monsanto	154	153
Morgan (JP)	83	83
Motorola Inc	52	53
Natl Semi	14	13
Natl Service Ind	36	36
Navistar Int	10	10
NY Times A	28	29
Newmont Mng	55	56
Niag Mohawk	8	8
Nike B	81	81
NL Industries	13	13
Noram Energy	9	9
Nordstrom	47	48
Norfolk Sthn	84	85
Nthn State Pwr	48	48
Norwest Corp	37	36
Nynex Corp	52	47
Occidental Pet	27	26
Ohio Edison	22	22
Oracle	46	47
Oryx Energy Co	14	13
Owens Corning	39	40
PHH Corp	54	55
PPG Industries	49	49
PNC Bank	30	30
PP&L Res	24	24
Paccar Inc	49	48
Pacificorp	20	20
Pac Enterprises	25	25
Pac Gas & Elec	22	22
Pac Telesis	27	27
Pall Corp	26	25
Panhandle East	31	31
Parker Hannifin	37	37
Peco Energy	26	26
Penney (JC)	50	49
Pennzoil	39	39
Pepsico	63	63
Pfizer	66	67
Pharm & Upjhn	41	39
Phelps Dodge	67	69
Philip Morris	91	87
Phillips Pet	39	39
Pitney Bowes	48	49
Polaroid	44	45
PriceCostco	18	18
Procter & Gmbl	85	84
Providian	44	44
Pub Serv E & G	27	27
Quaker Oats	33	33
Ralston Purina	67	66
Raychem Corp	64	64
Raytheon	51	51
Reebok Intl	27	27
Reynolds Metals	58	59
Rockwell Intl	58	58
Rohm & Haas	65	66
Royal Dutch	141	141
Rubbermaid	28	28
SBC Comms	52	52
Safeco Corp	35	33
St Paul's Cos	55	55
Salomon Inc	37	37
Sara Lee Corp	32	32
Schering Plough	59	58
Schlumberger	81	79
Seagram	32	32
Sears Roebuck	48	49
Shell Trans	80	80
Sherwin Wllms	44	44
Skyline Corp	24	24
Snap-On-Tools	46	46
Southern Co	24	23
Sprint Corp	38	38
Stanley Works	56	55
Sun Company	29	28
Sun Microsys	44	43
Suntrust	71	70
Supervalu	31	30
Sysco Corp	33	32
TRW Inc	89	89
TCC Inds	2	2
Tandem Comp	9	8
Tandy Corp	46	46
Teledyne	28	28
Temple Inland	47	46
Tenneco	56	55
Texaco	85	86
Texas Inst	50	50
Texas Utilities	41	41
Textron	81	80
Time Warner	41	40
Times-Mirror A	39	39
Timken	40	40
Torchmark	44	45
Toys R Us	27	27
Transamerica	74	74
Travelers	64	66
Tribune	66	65
Tyco Labs	37	35
UST Inc	32	31
UAL	207	208
US Inds	20	20
USX Marathon	19	19
Unicom	27	27
Unilever NV	135	135
Union Camp	49	49
Union Carbide	49	49
Union Pacific	68	68
Unisys Corp	6	6
USAIR Group	18	18
USF&G Corp	15	15
US Life	29	29
United Tech	111	112
Unocal Corp	33	33
VF Corp	55	55
WMX Tech	32	31
Wal-Mart Stores	23	23
Warner-Lambert	109	108
Wells Fargo	257	261
Westinghouse El	19	19
Weyerhaeuser	46	46
Whirlpool	55	55
Whitman	23	24
Winn Dixie	33	33
Woolworth	15	15
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	56	55
Xerox	128	125
Yellow Corp	12	12

Pensions provision when marriage turns to divorce

Hardship caused by legal delays when couples split must be reduced, Robert Miller says

Marriage is an expensive business, but divorce can be even more so. Legal fees traditionally make up the bulk of the costs for both sides. But the tide may be turning against those advisers who have hitherto regarded such matrimonial work as simply bread and butter fee income. Lawyers are under greater pressure than ever before to prove their mettle and secure better financial settlements for women, including access to their husband's future pension rights. Unfortunately, none of the parties involved, from divorcing couples, judges and lawyers to pension fund administrators, expects much practical enlightenment to come from the Family Law Bill that was due to be debated in the Commons today but instead will be delayed until after the Easter recess.

In the meantime, those about to embark on divorce proceedings, and particularly women, are receiving conflicting advice. On the one hand, Fairshares, the campaign group led by Dawn Barnett and Sallie Quinn, advises waiting until July. Any new petition presented after then will come under the new regulations laid down in the Pensions Act 1995. These allow judges to formally "earmark" future pension rights for a woman out of her husband's pension, but only after he retires. Should he die before retirement then the wife may lose her rights to any payouts, although courts will have the necessary powers to make a ruling on death-in-service benefits and lump sums payable to the scheme member.

Penny Webster, a partner of Bacon & Woodrow, the firm of consulting actuaries, argues that a skilful lawyer might usefully secure a "clean break" settlement, even now, by negotiating, where applicable, for a husband to give his wife the house, with the mortgage fully paid up, and keep his pension intact. Under the old rule of thumb, husbands very often signed over just half a share in the house and kept all their pension entitlements.

The debate on pension rights for women in divorce cases has a long and troubled history. For many years there has been a growing recognition that husbands may quite rightly be charged with paying maintenance for their children and the support of their mother while she has charge of the children. But what about later on? An increasing number of divorced women are facing an old age with little income outside of what the State may provide while the former husbands can often be found enjoying the fruits of an index-linked pension as well as those of their partners.

Fighting ferociously in one corner is Baroness Hollis of Heigham, Labour's Social Security spokeswoman in the Lords, who this year tabled a successful amendment to the Family Law Bill requiring that pensions be divided upon divorce. Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, has made clear the Government's opposition to pension-splitting and the Department of Social Security produced figures showing that the immediate introduction of such a measure could cost as much as £600 million, compared with £200 million, by the year 2037. Nevertheless, the Government has now signalled an end to its opposition to the concept of "clean break" pension splits but has called for a Green Paper to be presented to Parliament by the summer.

Sallie Quinn says the Government must give a date for pensions splitting

Campaigners such as Fairshares believe that after such a long discussion period not enough has been done to protect divorced women and their rights to a financially secure future. Ms Quinn says: "The Government has reneged on its promise to introduce 'earmarking' from April 6, delaying it instead to petitions started after July. What we don't want is a repeat of these delaying tactics used in the Family Law Bill. The Government must give an up-front commencement date for pensions splitting and this time stick to it. Logically, that date should be when the Bill gets Royal Assent and becomes a statute."

In Parliament last week, Roger Freeman, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, defended the Government's stand. He told MPs: "In last year's Pensions Act, we clarified the court's existing duty to take pensions into account in financial settlements, which had not always been recognised in practice. The courts already have the power to order maintenance payments to the ex-spouse, payable from the former partner's income including pensions. But the Pensions Act extended that power to allow the courts to order a pension scheme to pay the relevant sum from the scheme member's pension, including any lump sums payable, directly to the ex-spouse, when the pension comes into payment."

He added: "I might take the opportunity to clear up any confusion on this matter — the courts will not be constrained to order a 50/50 allocation, they will have the flexibility to order whatever allocation or none as seems appropriate. These provisions will take effect from July this year." The minister also outlined the "technical complexities" of pension splitting, such as the effect it would have on occupational pension schemes by adding extra layers of responsibility on the scheme's trustees and managers. He said that the implications on public spending had to be considered and the position of state earnings related pension schemes and the interaction with guaranteed minimum pensions must also be safeguarded. Finally, Mr Freeman said that on a practical level "we have identified some 30 Acts of Parliament which may need changing".

Opposing views: Roger Freeman, left, and Baroness Hollis of Heigham

One of the bodies most closely concerned with pensions and divorce reform seems less troubled than does the Government. The National Association of Pension Funds, whose members look after £350 billion of pension assets, says it sees no problem with a "clean break" settlement on divorce. However, the association insists that the costs of working out what should be separated out and passed on to a wife who can then set up her own personal pension are borne by the couple concerned and not the pension scheme.

In terms of implications on legal costs to the couple involved in the divorce, Bill Birmingham, the NAPF's manager of benefits services, argues that these should not be greatly increased. He says that in maybe 90 per cent of cases of the 160,000 divorce cases in England and Wales a financial agreement can be worked out between the parties involved before coming to court, in which case the judge would simply rubber stamp the deal.

Ron Spill, pensions expert at Legal & General, says: "The most unfortunate aspect to the proposed reforms is that we in the industry are saddled with an unnecessarily complex system for two years. What is really needed now is a concerted effort to make clean break pensions available as an option as soon as possible."

A *Pensions in Divorce Report* to be published today will highlight the difficult road ahead in achieving a fair deal for divorced women. Dennis Williams, managing director of Seymour Smith, which commissioned the report and represents lawyers, pensions experts and actuaries, says: Many people are quite rightly confused about the complex implications of the pensions-splitting issue ... Following last week's second reading of the Family Law Bill and the speculation that spouses will have to wait until 1998 to be able to split their ex-partner's pension, we have grave concerns about the effect such a deal would have on individual's facing divorce over the next couple of years."

More tellingly, Mr Williams concludes: "The longer the delay becomes, the higher the probability that assets can be dissipated. There is also the added problem of uncertainty and stress that such a delay will inevitably create."

With so much evidence available from a wide and diverse body of opinion as to the hardship caused by legislative delays there must surely be a moral obligation on the Government to sort this mess put. And to do it soon.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

De Savary on buying spree

ENTREPRENEUR Peter de Savary is adding to his grand collection of multi-million pound properties before he floats the latest project, the Carnegie Club, on the stock market next year. The former owner of Land's End and John O'Groats is about to sign up, for Carnegie, a £5 million property in the heart of the English countryside and another in the Caribbean. He also has his eye on an exclusive pad on the East Coast of America. This time last year, de Savary opened the exclusive Carnegie Club at Skibo Castle in Scotland, and will open the London outpost of the Carnegie Club at the end of this month. Annual membership of the Carnegie Club costs £2,000 a year. De Savary booms: "We've had a lot of interest from members. But we don't know where we'll float it."

De Savary: float plans

BOSSY Sir Christopher Bland was busy by 6.30 am yesterday, his first day as chairman at the BBC. Standing on the gallery at Broadcasting House, the self-made millionaire and sometime TV regulator, had his stern eye fixed on the April foolery going on at Radio Five Live's breakfast programme.

Oiling wheels

BURMAH CASTROL takes emerging markets so seriously that it spent more than £1 million flying 150 top managers to Peking to provide an appropriate backdrop for its annual conference. They spent five days at the China World Hotel and raced one another aboard dragon boats. One manager was sent home after a heart attack. Jonathan Fry, chief executive, said: "If you are committed to growth markets, you don't have your conference in Zurich."

Splashing out

CLIVEDEN is taking no risks for its stock market flotation today. The company has invited an expert in such watery matters, swimming instructor Pierre Grumeberg, to give lessons at its luxury hotel in Berkshire. The 64-year-old Adonis, who taught Charlie Chaplin the breast stroke and persuaded Shirley Bassey to get her hair wet, will be teaching at the hotel where Christine Keeler paddled with John Profumo. Grumeberg, who encourages his pupils to put their head in a salad bowl of water, is donating his fees to the National Trust.

Purple daze

BODY SHOP is apologising to its environmentally friendly customers who turned purple after spending hours fiddling with a prize-winning puzzle to celebrate its birthday. Due to an error in its make-up, the wordsearch is impossible to complete.

BMW launched a new product yesterday. Calls flooded in on April Fool's Day to find out more about its insect deflector screen that enables cars to drive through swarms of insects at up to 95 mph unscathed. "Insects colliding with the windscreen simply bounce off, leaving the surface unmarked."

MORAG PRESTON

JANET BUSH

Beefing up the UK's organic farming sector

The Government and the farming industry ought to force themselves to observe a two-minute silence before they start crowing about the weekend rush to buy half-price beef. Of course, there are a lot of price-conscious pragmatists quite properly exercising their choice to take a risk. But there are many others who won't take the risk and are switching to other meats or vegetables. There are others who don't believe beef is much of a risk, but find intensive farming methods inherently distasteful and are going organic.

Forcing cows to turn cannibal because they get fatter faster and more cheaply is anathema to many. Media coverage of the beef scare has educated and shocked thousands. It is a sign that there may be a permanent change in attitude that it is not just organic beef that has seen an explosion of demand.

Peter Segger, of Organic Farm Foods, the largest supplier of organic fruit and vegetables to supermarket chains, has seen demand rise 40 per cent in a week. Is there now an opportunity for a permanent switch towards organic products and can we rely on Government to take a lead? Need one ask? Only 0.3 per cent of Britain's land is farmed organically. By the end of the century, the Government aims to increase that to a whopping ... 1 per cent. This is, after all, the Government that told us to eat anything we liked after Chernobyl and that Gulf War syndrome doesn't exist even as soldiers' babies are born deformed.

> In Britain, organic food is regarded as a niche product. But that is only because there isn't enough of it

The Government may well argue that if consumers want organic products farmers will have the incentive to switch. But this free market argument is disingenuous because the Government rigs the market so heavily in favour of intensive farming. The Agriculture Ministry paid nearly £1 billion in subsidies to conventional farmers last year in England alone, much of it biased towards intensive farming. In comparison, it paid less than £200,000 to organic farmers in the whole of the British Isles, according to the Soil Association.

But it needn't be this way. Germany, for example, awards a bonus to farms that keep fewer animals per field and do not use mineral nitrogenous fertilizer. Germany has such strict rules relating to pesticide residues in baby food that Hipp, an organic company, has more than half of the German baby food market. Britain asks scientists (specious public posturing, a cynic would say) whether beef is more dangerous to children than adults, takes no for an answer, and says it won't do anything to restore consumer confidence.

But if the Government is properly interested in the health of the nation we are entitled to ask why it shouldn't switch subsidies from intensive to organic farmers or enforce stricter regulations. Isn't it absurd that labelling of animal feed is apparently so inadequate that farmers have been claiming that they didn't know that it contained bits of cattle? Or that farmers didn't think to ask?

The challenge of switching from intensive to organic farming is perfect for the Government's (and Labour's) current yen for public/private partnerships. Switching to organic farming is not difficult in many cases but does take time: an absolute minimum of two years. The private sector and the Government can help during this transition. There is no shortage of imaginative schemes on the Continent. In Denmark, 20 per cent of all milk consumed is organic, but the proportion would be a lot higher if there were more organic farms. The demand is there. So the large dairies, backed by the Government, are helping farms in the transition to organic farming by buying semi-organic milk, selling it as conventional milk but paying organic prices.

In Britain, organic food has long been regarded as a niche market for the fussy and affluent middle classes. Actually, it is a niche product only because there isn't enough of it. If there were more organic farms, the produce would be better marketed, more people would choose to eat it and prices would fall.

Health aside, if the Government believes in consumer choice, it should act to develop a substantial organic farming sector.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Distortions and the measuring of inflation

From Mr Adrian Cosker

Sir, The biggest obstacle to the correction of the chronic deficiency of demand from which the British economy has suffered ever since we joined the exchange-rate mechanism is currently the Government's 2.5 per cent inflation target. Since it would be impossible publicly to relax the target without an adverse reaction from the Bank of England and the bond markets, the only solution would appear to be a reformulation of the way in which inflation is measured.

There is an excellent case for this: at the moment, price increases such as higher council taxes, increases in prescription charges, higher water rates in response to tougher European Union regulations, and the higher prices for cars, computers etc because of new improved features, are all counted as inflation.

They are, of course, no such thing — they represent, respectively, a reorganisation of the tax burden, or a perfectly proper payment demanded for a higher quality product.

With these distortions artifically boosting the measured inflation rate, it is, of course, necessary to keep the rest of the economy on an excessively tight rein by way of compensation, hence the chronic demand deficiency and its accompanying unemployment.

By discreetly adjusting the way inflation is measured, the distortions could be eliminated, inflation would measure what it should be measuring — the changes in the true cost of making things — and the improved figures should make it possible to expand demand and put to the test the impact of supply-side improvements on the natural rate of unemployment and on the productive capacity of the economy, in the kind of way that Janet Bush argued for in her article (March 7).

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN COSKER
(Head of Economics),
The Knights Templar School,
Park Street,
Baldock,
Hertfordshire.

Forum proposed on British Gas's take or pay contracts

From V. Ray Harlow

Sir, Undue emphasis has been made by Mr Giordano that British Gas's take or pay contracts are "a legacy of the monopoly era", when BG was legally obligated to purchase supplies to match the nation's demands.

He cannot deny that BG's monopoly had been broken when he became chairman in 1993. Large in-roads had already been made into BG's share of the industrial market by that time. If pressed, he would also have to concede that BG was still purchasing life of field take or pay contracts right up until the first quarter of 1994, long after the company's monopoly had been lifted.

Furthermore, BG's call for an inquiry by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission has a touch of irony, for the only monopoly to have been emasculated in this affair was BG and not the oil companies in the North Sea that had to compete with each other to secure supply agreements with BG. While an MMC inquiry is unlikely to happen, some type of forum surely needs to be established so that misleading and inaccurate statements about the whole situation can be removed from the decision-making process.

Yours sincerely,
V. RAY HARLOW
(Chairman/Managing Director)
Sun Oil Britain,
23 Sheen Road,
Richmond, Surrey.

Letters to the Business and Finance section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112

Lloyd's unfair to names who paid

From Mr T. R. Bruce

Sir, I want to amplify your headline "Responses to Lloyd's R&R offer to names" (March 14). We are monitoring the attitudes of our names on this subject.

Your readers may be interested to know that we have had contact with a significant proportion of the names for whom we act as members' agent.

Of these, 79.25 per cent intend to accept R&R [the reconstruction and renewal plan] on the basis of the indicative information they have received. This includes names who have resigned where three out of four are in favour. The "don't knows" account for 12.5 per cent with the definite "no's" running at 8 per cent currently.

Perhaps I should add that there is a perceptible undercurrent that the names who have continued to trade forward and paid their losses silently and honourably have not been fairly treated in the apportionment of available funds. This is an aspect Lloyd's may need to consider should it be successful in increasing the £2.8 billion.

Yours faithfully,
T. R. BRUCE,
Murray Lawrence Members Agency Ltd,
Lloyd's Underwriting Agents,
1 Whittington Avenue,
EC3.

COMPAGNIE FINANCIÈRE OTTOMANE SA

The board of COMPAGNIE FINANCIÈRE OTTOMANE wishes to announce that agreement has been reached with the GARANTI BANKASI GROUP of Turkey for the sale of its 99.9% interest in its affiliate, OSMANLI BANKASI AS.

OSMANLI BANKASI is the largest foreign-owned bank in Turkey and the oldest banking business in that country, founded in 1863. It has 61 branches and a staff of 1,400.

Following the decision by COMPAGNIE FINANCIÈRE OTTOMANE in July 1995 not to proceed with the flotation on the Istanbul stock market of part of the capital of OSMANLI BANKASI AS, a number of groups approached COMPAGNIE FINANCIÈRE OTTOMANE with a view to acquiring a participation in the capital of its Turkish subsidiary. Negotiations have now been concluded with GARANTI BANKASI GROUP on the basis of a purchase price of US$ 245 million for the entire share capital of COMPAGNIE OTTOMANE D'INVESTISSEMENTS BV, a Dutch holding company which holds 99.9% of the share capital of OSMANLI BANKASI AS. As at 31 December 1995, the value of the participation in OSMANLI BANKASI AS as reflected in the consolidated balance sheet of COMPAGNIE FINANCIÈRE OTTOMANE was FRF 525 million (US$ 105 million).

The sale is subject to a number of conditions including the necessary regulatory approval and the usual due diligence procedure. Completion of the sale is expected to take place by late June 1996.

The board of COMPAGNIE FINANCIÈRE OTTOMANE, which has been advised by BANQUE PARIBAS, considers that the proposed transaction presents a good opportunity to enhance shareholder value.

COMPAGNIE FINANCIÈRE OTTOMANE is a Luxembourg holding company, whose shares are listed on the stock exchanges of London, Luxembourg and Paris. It is a member of the PARIBAS GROUP, which owns 49.9% of its share capital and voting rights.

For more information, please contact:

Mr George Warren in London Tel: 0171 626 5932
Mr Pierre-Edouard Noyelle in Paris Tel: (33 1) 42 98 05 54

1 April 1996

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD 01895 256 783				
Grofund Amer	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Grofund Fareast	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Grofund Euro	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Grofund Eqd Eal	[illegible]	[illegible]		[illegible]
Grofund Gilt	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Grofund Japan	182 90	[illegible]	[illegible]	
AAA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS 01203 553 231				
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS 0345 717 373				
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 220 0733				
ARTFUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0800 233 500				
For Abtrust see Mallinson				
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0171 286 5464				
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD 01452 305 958				
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC IFA dlg 01793 610 366 Client dlg 01793 514 614				
B S C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 01253 536 911				
BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD 0131 222 4242				
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD 0171 489 8673				
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD 0181 534 5544				
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD 0171 214 1004				
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
Intl Gwth Port Inc	91 42	97 26		
Special Oppor Inc	62 43	66 41		
BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD				
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD 0171 480 7216				
Short Dated Gilt	64 26	65 08	- 0 08	6 52
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD 0161 837 5060				
Fairbon	187 90	194 60	+ 0 90	1 80
UK Growth	197 20	210 00	- 1 30	1 96
UK Income	141 10	150 10	- 3 10	4 40
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD 01707 822 100				
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD 0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455				

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 0171 606 0708				
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG 0171 588 1815				
COIF CHARITY FUNDS 0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	733 55	744 64		4 35
Investment Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]		
Fixed Int Inc	125 40	125 93		8 11
Fixed Int Acc	213 20	214 05		
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD 0171 407 5966				
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0171 711 0771 Admin 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	58 94	62 54	+ 0 05	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MG IS LTD 0800 373 393				
COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD 01604 238 000				
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD 0171 636 9918				
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD 0171 407 5966				
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD 0800 525 758				
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD 0171 233 9494				
CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD 01277 690 310				
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD 0171 410 0177				
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS 0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	125 40	158 30		4 98
DUNEDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0131 315 2500				
EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD 01242 577 555				
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0345 090 626				
American	174 40	185 00	- 0 40	0 43
Convertibles #	22 12	23 50	+ 0 10	5 96
Equity Income #	138 30	146 30	+ 0 70	4 08
Eurofund	61 02	64 64	+ 0 39	0 31
European	52 60	55 89	+ 0 18	1 67
Growth & Inc #	276 50	293 80	- 1 70	2 89
High Dist #	175 70	186 70	- 1 10	4 56
International	448 20	476 20	- 0 90	0 06
Intl Cap Inc	104 10	111 10	- 0 30	2 52
Latin American	31 14	33 09	+ 0 27	
Pacific	88 84	94 39	- 0 05	
Pref High Inc	21 58	22 93	- 0 19	7 20
Tokyo	245 90	[illegible]	+ 1 10	
UK Smaller Cos	251 80	267 50	- 0 10	1 12
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD 0171 242 0242				
Ely Director Dfrs	113 56	121 45	+ 5 64	1 36
Growth Acc	250 34	267 21	+ 0 60	0 36
Income	588 83	624 61	+ 1 07	5 04
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD 0171 373 7261				
Endurance Fd	226 20	240 60		0 95
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 01296 431 480				
European	92 58	97 45		1 88
Ethical Tst	48 18	50 72		0 95
Far Eastern	324 68	341 77		1 53
High Income	138 67	145 96		4 73
UK Index Tracking	47 85	50 37		3 36
Intl Growth	137 20	144 42		0 33
North American	142 09	149 57		1 46
Pelican	134 97	142 07		3 14
Smaller Cos	71 05	74 79		2 67
Special Sits	93 99	98 94		2 68
Tst of Inv Tsts	209 56	220 59		1 13
EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD 0171 407 5966				
Smaller Cos Inc	211 91	225 44		1 25
Smaller Cos Acc	377 63	401 72		1 25
Recovery	53 86	57 30	- 0 03	1 47
Recovery Acc	55 17	58 69	- 0 04	1 47
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD 01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	84 29	90 39	+ 0 08	
Fd of Inv Tsts	50 84	54 23	+ 0 09	0 53
High Income #	37 14	39 80	- 1 10	11 56
Warrant	53 31	57 97	+ 0 16	
Zero Preference	41 69	44 23	+ 0 17	
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD 01273 220 707				
Family Asset Tst	86 39	91 78	+0 190	2 71
United Charities	286 10	304 30	- 2 50	2 10
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD Callfree: Private Clients 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund	100 00	100 00		5 40
Gilt & Fxd Int	27 27	27 36	+ 0 08	7 30
Intl Bond	29 76	30 07	+ 0 02	5 34
High Income	25 33	26 61	+ 0 04	5 42
Income Plus	123 40	131 30	+ 1 20	4 03
Amer Eq Inc	61 33	65 00	- 0 17	1 36
European Income	[illegible]	51 44	+ 0 10	2 23
Far East Inc	67 52	71 74	+ 0 25	3 29
Global Convertible	25 11	26 72	+ 0 01	2 61
UK Gth Gth	29 55	31 42	- 0 24	2 16
ASEAN	71 78	76 57	- 0 09	
American	326 80	346 40	- 1 00	
Amer Spec Sits	181 30	193 20	+ 0 20	
Japan Smaller Cos	37 64	39 51	+ 0 14	
European	218 00	231 80	+ 0 40	0 59
European Opps	77 61	82 52	+ 0 43	0 13
Global Priv	31 00	33 97	+ 0 17	0 68
UK Growth	116 20	123 60	+ 0 70	1 16
Growth & Inc	167 30	177 90	- 1 20	2 72
Intl PEP	45 70	48 60	+ 0 17	1 00
Japan Spec Sits	95 33	101 60	+ 0 20	
Japan	190 30	202 00	- 0 10	
Managed Intl	340 00	361 40	- 0 30	0 41
Moneybuilder	65 51	66 66	- 0 18	
Recovery	56 17	59 73	- 0 16	1 29
South E Asia	183 80	196 10	- 0 60	0 99
Special Sits	699 80	744 10	+ 1 10	0 62
Cash Accum Units	113 62	113 62	+ 0 04	5 40
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD 0171 814 2700				
Balanced #	151 60	156 30		1 72
Inc Ptflio #	93 93	95 67	+ 0 13	3 50
Cap Ptflio	158 60	161 40	+ 0 30	1 11
General Opps	137 60	139 30		3 84
Growth Inc	36 18	36 89	- 0 29	0 97
Private Portfolio	478 80	489 50		1 10
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT Dlg 01277 690 366 Admin/Val 01277 690 350				
Euro Smlr Cos	145 70	154 60	- 0 40	0 34
Emrg Asian	161 30	173 20	- 0 70	
High Income	21 64	22 98	- 0 01	3 79
UK Income	111 40	118 90	- 0 90	4 25
US Smaller Cos	403 40	430 20	- 0 80	
FOSTER & BRAITHWAITE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD 0171 407 5966				
-do- Inv Tst Inc	79 26	83 37	- 0 15	4 10
Investment Trust	106 98	112 39	+ 0 29	
UK Smaller Cos	103 29	108 61	+ 0 66	0 94

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD Enq 0171 330 6500 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	78 35	83 50	[illegible]	
-do- Accum	78 35	83 50	[illegible]	
Amer Smlr Cos	656 30	701 90	+ 7 60	
-do- Accum	670 40	717 00	+ 7 60	
Capital Tst	379 30	403 50	+ 0 10	1 12
-do- Accum	554 00	589 40	+ 0 20	1 12
Cont Smlr Cos	65 37	69 51	+ 0 34	0 63
-do- Accum	69 91	74 89	+ 0 36	0 63
Convertible	138 90	147 80	+ 0 50	5 40
-do- Accum	294 90	313 70	+ 1 20	5 40
Emerging Markets	69 91	74 69	+ 0 26	
-do- Accum	70 15	74 95	+ 0 27	
European	142 90	151 90	+ 0 20	0 29
-do- Accum	150 20	159 30	+ 0 30	0 29
Extra Income	377 00	401 10	+ 1 70	3 74
-do- Accum	566 70	624 20	+ 2 60	3 74
Financial	161 30	171 60	+ 0 10	0 43
-do- Accum	170 80	181 70	+ 0 10	0 43
Gilt Trust	62 82	64 57	- 1 49	6 11
-do- Accum	94 65	97 60	+ 0 32	6 11
Health Fund Inc	274 10	292 80	+ 3 80	
-do- Accum	274 10	292 80	+ 3 80	
Income & Growth	225 80	240 30	+ 1 50	3 22
-do- Accum	353 00	375 50	+ 2 30	3 22
Intl Growth	436 80	465 60	+ 1 90	
-do- Accum	485 00	517 10	+ 2 10	
Japan & Gen	185 30	196 90	+ 0 10	
-do- Accum	187 20	198 90	+ 0 10	
Monthly Inc #	189 80	201 90	+ 1 10	3 97
Managed Port Inc	119 50	125 80	- 0 90	1 68
-do- Accum	129 90	136 70	+ 0 70	1 68
Charities Income #	55 81	59 92	+ 0 28	4 55
-do- Accum #	62 44	67 04	+ 0 32	4 55
Recovery	364 30	389 60	+ 0 70	0 64
-do- Accum	430 10	460 00	+ 1 00	0 64
UK Growth	64 68	68 81	+ 0 41	2 07
-do- Accum	68 54	72 92	+ 0 42	2 07
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS Dealing 01705 881330 Enq 01705 881340				
FP American	59 70	63 51	[illegible]	[illegible]
FP Am Smllr Cos	193 10	206 50	- 0 20	
FP Asian Growth	298 10	318 80	- 2 30	
FP Australian	406 10	435 70	- 1 30	
FP Equity Dist	437 60	465 50	+ 2 60	2 54
-do- Accum	948 50	1010 00	+ 6 00	2 54
FP Euro Gth	272 00	289 30	- 0 80	0 23
-do- Accum	297 50	316 40	+ 1 10	0 23
FP Intl Bond	60 44	63 95	+ 0 13	5 07
FP Intl Gth Unit	38 52	41 10	- 0 30	0 41
-do- Accum	56 24	60 02	- 0 43	0 41
FP Pac Basin Acc	229 10	244 80	- 2 10	
FP Income #	58 30	62 18	- 0 38	5 00
-do- Accum #	197 10	210 20	- 1 20	5 00
FP Jap Smllr Cos	310 80	331 50	- 3 10	
FP Monthly Dist #	73 96	78 93	- 0 49	5 64
FP Stlg Deposit	100 10	100 10	- 1 00	5 35
FP Tokyo	87 04	92 84	- [illegible]	
FP Uk Focus	40 82	43 89	- 0 19	2 59
FP UK Growth	189 40	202 00	+ 0 10	2 60
-do- Accum	375 90	400 90	+ 0 20	2 60
Stewardship Dist	405 80	431 60	+ 0 60	1 78
-do- Accum	505 00	537 20	+ 0 80	1 78
Stardship Inc Dist #	79 25	84 30	+ 0 07	4 81
-do- Accum #	106 40	113 10	+ 0 10	4 81
N Am Stshp Dist	119 80	127 40	+ 0 50	0 05
-do- Accum	128 40	136 50	+ 0 40	0 05
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Gwth Acc	124 50	132 40	- 1 30	1 08
Open Cap Gth Acc	128 80	137 00	- 0 20	0 19
Cap Gth Inc Inc #	117 00	124 40	- 0 10	2 37
Cap Gth Inc Acc #	122 30	130 10		2 37
Open Cp Gth Ic #	118 70	126 20	+ 0 20	3 50
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac #	124 80	132 80	+ 0 20	3 50
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0345 581 1067				
GANDA	277 80	293 60	+ 1 80	2 10
Cash	49 59	50 33	+ 0 01	5 29
Growth Portfolio	90 23	95 64	- 0 12	0 86
Income Portfolio	69 41	73 40	+ 0 09	4 19
GEM DOLPHIN INV MGRS LTD 0171 236 6441				
Special Sit	230 70	246 70	+ 0 70	1 27
Dividend	93 08	99 52	- 0 14	4 26
Intl Gth & Inc	243 10	260 00	+ 1 10	3 89
UK & Gen	48 54	51 91	- 0 11	1 97
Fund of Funds	75 24	80 47	+ 0 19	
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD Inv 0800 212274 Dealing 0171 628 9431				
Asian Spec Sits	[illegible]	273 60	+ 3 60	0 12
European	672 90	719 40	+ 0 50	0 64
Euro Eq & Bd Inc	52 72	56 17	- 0 95	5 08
-do- Accum	58 47	62 29	+ 0 11	5 06
Far East & Gen	283 80	303 60	- 0 90	
Germany	137 30	145 90	- 0 40	
High Yield #	[illegible]	50 86	+ 0 34	8 31
-do- Accum #	51 37	54 28	+ 0 36	8 31
Income Inc	184 40	197 30	+ 1 20	4 33
-do- Accum	207 20	221 70	+ 1 40	4 33
International	392 40	419 50	+ 2 60	0 27
Intl Income	94 41	99 97	- 0 03	2 68
Japan & General	448 50	476 80	- 1 20	
Korean Securities	66 47	71 09	+ 1 35	
Orient Acc	170 60	182 50	+ 0 50	0 19
UK General Inc	192 00	206 40	+ 1 60	0 92
UK General Acc	339 90	363 50	+ 3 00	0 92
UK Smllr Cos Inc	49 39	52 83	+ 0 01	4 10
-do- Accum	55 62	59 49	- 0 01	4 10
UK Spec Sits	99 20	106 10	+ 0 40	1 32
US Growth	188 30	199 50	- 0 40	
Wwide Spec Sits	161 00	171 70	+ 1 00	
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS 0171 782 2000 Dlgs only 01277 264 421				
UK Growth Funds				
British Growth	57 55	61 86	+ 0 36	1 89
Cash Trust	143 21	143 21	+ 0 04	5 32
Practical Inv Inc #	122 86	131 40	+ 0 04	2 60
-do- Accum #	288 76	308 90	+ 0 08	2 60
UK Index	171 27	173 13	+ 1 32	3 31
UK Smaller Cos	166 50	178 08	+ 0 35	0 86
Income Funds				
Extra Yield	24 10	24 97	+ 0 12	7 83
Gilt Income	33 79	36 13	+ 0 22	5 23
UK Equity Income	153 11	163 75	+ 1 07	3 16
Global Bond	30 11	31 21	- 0 05	5 19
International Funds				
Emerging Markets	47 70	51 02	- 0 12	
Global Managed	152 11	161 77	- 0 01	1 30
Gold & Intl Res	125 00	133 69	- 2 32	0 65
Global Utilities	147 34	157 14	+ 0 86	1 43
Overseas Funds				
American	192 03	204 15	+ 0 03	0 94
European	131 73	135 59	+ 0 27	0 79
Euro Sel Opps	198 48	210 65	+ 0 60	
Amer Emerging	159 33	170 41	+ 0 93	
Hong Kong	164 19	175 64	- 0 37	1 79
Japan	259 56	275 95	+ 1 27	
Pacific Growth	236 82	253 39	+ 0 40	
Gartmore Pensions Strategy Funds				
Managed Equity	251 70	251 70	+ 1 42	2 06
Long Term Bal	271 31	271 31	+ 1 50	2 86
Med Term Bal	222 45	[illegible]	+ 1 05	[illegible]
UK Equity	286 98	286 98	+ 2 43	2 56
UK Emerging Cos	171 94	171 34	+ 0 36	1 94
American	312 23	312 23	- 0 94	1 02
Japan	141 91	141 91	+ 0 57	
European	339 94	339 94	+ [illegible]	0 89
Index Linked Gilt	177 83	177 83	+ 0 11	2 70
Fixed Interest	186 39	186 39	+ 1 16	6 64
Amer Emerges	384 64	384 64	+ 1 69	
Pacific	261 07	261 07	+ 0 15	0 75
Emerging Mkts	128 36	128 36	+ 0 24	0 18
Index Gilt Income	180 12	180 12	+ 0 04	0 12
-do- Pacific Ren	214 78	214 78		1 24
-do- Cont Europe	186 83	186 83	+ 0 28	1 67
Index Strat USA	184 44	184 44		1 73
Gartmore Personal Pension Funds				
Managed Equity	118 41	125 98	+ 0 65	
Med Term Bal	105 75	112 49	+ 0 46	
Long Term Bal	121 77	129 54	+ 0 64	
UK Equity	132 67	141 13	+ 1 14	
UK Emerging Cos	80 22	85 34	- 0 15	
American	144 81	153 83	- 0 53	
Japan	67 82	72 15	+ 0 27	
European	140 82	149 81	+ 1 03	
Fixed Interest	84 78	90 19	+ 0 59	
Index Linked Gilt	78 97	84 01	+ 0 03	
Deposit	85 43	90 88	- 0 03	
Broker Unit Trusts				
BWH Intl	160 79	169 25	+ 0 93	0 50
Brckin Gth Port Inc	72 78	76 81	+ 0 21	0 80
-do- Inc Port Inc	60 83	64 31	+ 0 10	3 50
-do- Wwide Port	92 94	96 11	+ 0 11	0 10
Drew Utilities	67 59	71 30	+ [illegible]	3 15
GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT GAM Sterling Management 0171 493 9990				
Stg & Intl Inc	609 30	648 19		1 48
-do- Accum	688 08	732 00		1 48
European Inc	173 78	184 88		0 90
Amorigam Inc	159 55	168 94		0 38
N America Inc	404 37	430 18		0 53
Far East Inc	399 33	424 82		
-do- Accum	413 88	440 29		
UK Dlvrd Inc	198 54	211 21		2 97
GOVETT (JOHN) UNIT MGMT LTD 0171 378 7979 Dealing 0171 407 7888				
UK Equity Inc #	100 48	107 45		4 36
UK Small Cos	64 15	68 60		0 58
British Growth	67 26	71 92		2 73
American Gwth	264 84	283 25		
Japan Gwth	69 74	74 57		
Greater China	197 88	211 62		0 19
Pacific Strategy	167 53	179 17		
European Gwth	109 29	116 85		0 48
Intl Growth	169 29	181 04		
US Index (F)	18 1035	18 9693		1 60
FT-SE Mid 250 Ind	90 37	95 64		2 17
Monthly Income	40 86	43 53		8 00
MIC Unit Fund Dealing 071 665 0033				
Gld Uk Index (1)	13 5497	14 3043		5 50
GRANVILLE UNIT TST MGMT LTD 0171 488 1212				
Small Cos	104 15	110 60		1 64
GUARDIAN UT MGRS LTD 0171 538 9668				
European	576 40	615 60	+ 4 20	0 49
Gilt & Fixed	125 20	132 80	+ 0 90	6 21
Growth Eqty	406 60	434 30	+ 3 00	1 31
Income Trust	147 80	157 60	+ 0 90	4 10
International	213 30	227 90	+ 0 60	0 15
Japan Trust	133 40	142 50	- 0 30	
Nth American	352 60	376 70	+ 0 30	
Pacific	617 30	659 50	- 0 10	0 07
Capital	616 00	658 10	+ 4 10	1 31
GUINNESS FLIGHT UT MGRS LTD 0171 522 2129				
EMU Trust	108 26	112 36	+ 0 16	5 59
Global High Inc	102 91	106 82	+ 0 20	6 09
Corporate Bond	101 20	105 04	- 1 31	7 51
Eqty & Bond Inc	106 83	113 58	- 0 42	5 22
European Growth	122 64	130 39	- 0 09	
Intl PEP Trust	70 52	74 97	+ 0 20	
Equity Inc	132 78	141 18	- 0 89	4 08
-do- Accum	190 61	202 67	+ 1 29	4 08
Recovery	359 70	382 40	+ 0 60	1 86
-do- Accum	421 60	448 30	+ 0 70	1 86
St Vinc High Inc	124 66	132 52	+ 0 73	2 72
UK Emerg Cos	298 30	317 80	+ 1 50	2 02
UK Stock Cos	396 60	403 60	+ 1 00	2 28
Glob Priv Tst	112 20	119 30	- 0 08	1 14
-do- Accum	114 47	121 71	- 0 09	1 14
Inc Stone Tst	84 72	90 08	- 0 06	9 28
HALIFAX UT MGMT LTD Dealing 0171 280 5080 01904 671110				
Growth	31 48	33 38	+ 0 20	1 88
Growth Acc	32 17	34 11	+ 0 21	1 88
Income	30 52	32 36	- 0 17	4 03
Income Acc	31 83	33 75	- 0 18	4 03
Accumulation Tst	23 60	25 74	+ 0 30	2 37
HAMBROS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD Enquiries 01277 227 300 Dealing 01277 690 390				
High Provider	37 83	101 20	- 0 70	6 99
Model Pfolio	233 60	245 50	- 1 30	2 38
HENDERSON TOUCHE REMNANT Enquiries 0645 494949 Dealing 0645 464646				
UK Funds				
Special Sits	351 40	384 55	- 0 21	0 91
Best of British	70 68	75 13	- 0 43	2 46
UK Smaller Cos	145 18	156 05	+ 1 03	1 21
High Income Funds				
Income & Growth #	304 08	323 83	+ 1 60	3 53
-do- Accum #	842 33	897 04	+ 4 43	3 53
High Income	338 45	361 80	+ 1 50	4 50
Extra Income #	289 03	307 38	+ 1 46	5 78
Pref & Bond	48 12	49 73	+ 0 14	8 30
International				
International	325 13	345 56	- 0 30	0 34
Global Bond	56 66	59 64	- 0 21	5 72
Ind Port Tst	97 75	104 53	+ 0 21	0 45
Global Tech	238 74	253 32	+ 0 11	
Overseas Funds				
Asian Enterprise	199 14	211 88	+ 0 41	0 05
European	605 92	642 07	- 3 07	0 71
European Income #	92 17	97 62	- 0 32	2 85

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Euro Smlr Cos	178 64	191 67	+ 1 76	2 70
European Value	86 50	92 53	- 0 06	1 29
-do- Accum	93 13	99 52	+ 0 35	1 29
Japan Trust	240 92	256 20	+ 2 03	
Japan Special Sits	246 57	262 50	- 2 66	
Pacific Smlr Cos	258 08	276 13	+ 1 30	
North American	[illegible]	327 58	- 1 55	
American Smaller	171 01	182 65	+ 1 04	
HIGH PEAK UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD Enquiries 01277 227 300 Dealing 01277 261 010				
Income & Growth #	156 10	163 30	- 0 10	4 87
HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS 0181 686 4355				
British	115 92	121 38	+ 0 02	1 85
Capital	201 98	211 49	- 0 02	1 22
Dollar	[illegible]	[illegible]	- 1 18	
Enterprise Gth	405 17	424 26	- 3 66	1 25
European	275 61	288 60	- 0 10	0 39
Far East	346 43	362 75	- 7 50	
Financial	973 27	1019 19	- 0 49	2 01
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	25 79	26 81	- 0 08	7 13
High Yield	108 99	114 12	- 0 12	3 94
Income & Growth	157 80	165 24	- 0 65	3 31
International	304 10	318 42		
Japanese General	228 46	239 23	- [illegible]	
Japan Tech	95 90	100 42	+ 0 21	
Nat Resources	94 62	99 08	- 1 74	
Portfolio	84 92	88 92	- 0 58	1 30
Special Sits	194 47	203 63	- 4 34	0 39
UK Emerging Cos	116 77	122 27	+ 0 23	0 85
UK Smaller Cos	140 59	147 22	- 0 99	
HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD Advisers 0800 181 880 Investors 0800 289 505				
Active Funds-UK				
Income #	614 50	656 80	+ 4 40	5 17
Capital	698 90	745 90	- 6 80	2 42
Balanced #	111 00	118 50	- 0 70	5 87
Active Funds-International				
American Gwth	602 20	640 10	- 2 10	0 55
European Gwth	141 20	150 30	+ 0 10	
Japan Gwth	302 80	323 20	+ 0 80	
Japan Smllr Cos	33 97	36 25	+ [illegible]	
Asian	67 64	72 19	- 0 06	0 09
Sing & Malay Gwth	92 41	98 62	- 0 11	
Hong Kong Gwth	132 00	140 90	+ 0 10	1 27
Global Bond	22 83	24 11	+ 0 07	5 20
Index Funds-UK				
UK Index	181 20	182 00	+ 1 20	3 49
Trust Index	124 40	127 70	+ 0 20	2 21
THE FOOTSIE FUND	62 21	62 52	+ 0 80	3 08
Index Funds-International				
American Index	272 60	274 20	- 1 50	1 16
Eurotrack 100	194 90	195 90	- 0 70	1 09
Japan Index	85 49	85 92	- 0 12	0 22
Tiger Index	222 90	223 80	- 0 60	0 40
INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD 0171 626 3434 Dealing 0800 010 733				
UK Specialist Trusts				
UK Smaller Cos	44 86	48 42	- 0 03	0 73
General Funds				
Managed Dist	86 97	90 41	+ 0 47	1 21
Managed	88 83	92 34	+ 0 48	1 21
Rupert Clard Fnd	96 97	100 80	+ 0 88	2 02
UK Growth	68 42	71 12	+ 0 52	1 87
High Income Funds				
UK Equity Inc	86 66	99 06	+ 0 63	6 56
Gilt & Fixed Int	36 11	38 94	+ 0 09	7 82
UK Inc & Gwth	46 27	48 10	+ 0 32	3 12
UK Income	364 80	379 20	+ 3 40	4 72
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Growth	61 90	63 75	- 0 13	0 25
Amer Smllr Cos	156 90	163 10	+ 0 60	
-do- Accum	158 60	164 90	+ [illegible]	
Europe Gth	223 20	231 90	+ 2 70	
-do- Accum	231 20	239 80	+ [illegible]	
Euro Smaller Cos	42 89	44 58	+ 0 31	
French Growth	96 49	100 30	+ 0 72	0 33
-do- Accum	104 30	108 40	- 0 70	0 33
H Kong & China	[illegible]	68 06	- 0 58	0 69
Intl Growth	68 36	71 08	+ 0 11	0 06
-do- Accum	69 31	72 05	+ 0 11	0 03
Japan Gth	34 78	36 15	- 0 13	
-do- Accum	34 78	36 15	- 0 13	
Japan Smaller Cos	40 30	41 96		
Over Emg Mkt	100 90	104 90	- 0 10	
-do- Accum	101 60	105 60		
CE Res	365 30	379 70	- 1 50	0 03
Overseas Income Funds				
Intl Bond	55 41	57 09	- 0 07	3 56
INVESTCON (TR) UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 261010				
Sector Value Inc	99 51	105 10	- 0 70	4 05
Sector Value Gwth	98 66	105 40	+ 0 60	2 30
Ply 5 Europe	101 00	105 90	+ 0 60	1 89
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD 0171 581 3020				
World Health	209 50	222 80	- 3 70	
Income #	200 68	213 48	+ 1 60	4 00
UK Growth	79 30	84 35	+ 0 38	2 03
Intl Growth	87 70	93 29	+ 0 46	0 46
Ecology	102 25	108 77	+ 0 32	0 89
European	181 84	193 44	+ 0 77	
Far Eastern	321 30	341 70	- 5 20	

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS Dealers 0171 956 7394				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	96 91	100 70		7 77
Gilt Yield	115 10	121 80		7 00
Global Income	233 70	240 60		3 46
High Yield	148 30	156 90		3 64
-do- Accum	475 50	505 80		5 84
Smlr Cos Div	88 70	93 51		3 27
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smlr Cos	146 60	156 00		
Fund Growth	363 90	387 10		0 21
-do- Accum	427 80	455 10		0 21
North American	106 70	113 50		0 23
European Special	124 90	132 90		0 09
European	178 30	189 70		0 13
-do- Accum	235 20	250 20		0 43
Global Euro Inc	119 60	127 30		1 61
Japan	442 30	470 50		
Japanese Special	238 50	253 70		
Smaller Cos	138 60	147 40		1 03
UK Equity Growth	48 51	52 02		1 97
UK Index Inc	323 60	325 20		3 34
Bercham Tst	105 60	113 60		2 02
-do- Accum	106 10	114 10		2 02
LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT 0171 407 5966				
Bridge Income	280 28	308 81	+ 3 46	5 01
Inc & Growth Inc	61 77	83 71	- 0 38	4 15
Smaller Cos	81 53	86 73		1 16
LAURENTIAN UNIT TST MGMT LTD Enq 01452 371 500 Dlg 01452 371 623				
Growth Trust	290 00	308 50	+ 4 30	1 74
High Income	112 60	119 70	+ 0 80	4 34
International	119 00	126 50		0 47
European Trust	88 12	93 74	+ 0 20	0 81
Japanese Trust	45 05	47 92	- 0 06	
American Trust	115 40	122 70		
LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD 01277 690 432				
UK Cap	437 90	464 60	+ 3 30	2 40
UK Inc/Gth	457 60	485 50	+ 3 20	4 01
UK Income	322 90	342 60	+ 1 70	3 87
UK Sm Cos	280 60	298 80	+ 0 40	1 70
Euro Gwth	164 00	174 00	+ 0 30	
N Amer Gwth	120 40	127 70	- 0 13	
Japan Growth	70 30	74 59	- 0 17	
Money Mkt	130 552	130 552		0 000
LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD Enquiries 01277 227 300 Dealing 01277 690 366				
Equity Dist	550 60	585 70		2 67
-do- Accum	1112 11	1119 31		2 67
Equity Income #	102 60	109 10		4 59
UK Tactical Alloc	62 70	66 58		[illegible]
European	143 70	152 90		1 09
Far Eastern	248 00	263 80		
Fixed Interest	51 92	55 30		7 38
Gilt	89 03	94 41		6 57
Global Growth	87 19	92 66		0 25
Intl Bond	55 14	58 58		5 34
Japanese	77 90	82 87		
North American	206 90	220 10		0 04
Pacific Growth	126 60	134 90		0 07
UK Index	73 36	77 03		3 01
UK Recovery	108 90	115 80		1 98
UK Smaller Cos	151 70	161 40		1 13
US Index	81 85	86 39		1 30
European Index	90 73	95 75		1 76
Japan Index	43 75	46 17		
Worldwide	96 82	103 00		1 44
LINCOLN NATIONAL 01452 371 500 Dealing 01452 371 623				
Growth	54 62	58 41	+ 0 48	2 10
Income	63 00	67 37	+ 0 39	2 99
Far East	60 26	64 44	- 0 07	
North American	135 60	144 70	- 0 40	
Global	114 90	122 80	+ 0 30	0 18
European	98 21	104 80	+ 0 40	0 62
Japan	113 00	120 80	+ 0 30	
Intl Currency Bd	61 33	65 03	- 1 12	4 30
SE Asia	117 70	125 80	- 0 90	
UK Cap Growth	99 58	106 50	- 1 20	1 65
Recovery Trust	85 39	90 84	+ 3 05	1 22
Managed	76 98	81 81	+ 0 24	0 80
Cash	50 37	50 37	+ 0 01	4 56
LLOYDS BK UNIT TST MGRS LTD Helpdesk 01634 834 339 Dealing 01634 834 313				
Balanced	386 10	410 80		2 46
-do- Accum	901 10	958 70		2 46
Contl Euro Gth	78 60	82 74		0 72
-do- Accum	84 58	89 04		0 72
Extra Inc	278 30	295 10		4 14
-do- Accum	748 50	796 30		4 14
FTSE 100 Inc	114 60	122 00		2 73
FTSE 100 Acc	116 70	124 20		2 73
German Gth	139 20	146 50		
-do- Accum	146 00	153 70		
Growth Port	635 60	676 20		
-do- Accum	654 40	696 20		
High Income Inc	93 68	97 08		8 19
High Interest Acc	96 20	99 69		8 19
Hi Reserve Inc #	104 10	110 80		6 68
Hi Reserve Acc #	110 60	117 20		6 68
Income	533 60	567 70		3 34
-do- Accum	614 70	615 74		3 34
Income Port	540 20	574 70		4 62
-do- Accum	592 30	630 60		4 62
Japan Growth	116 60	124 10		

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	117 00	124 50		
Master Trust	66 60	70 86		1 15
-do- Accum	75 67	80 50		1 15
N American Gen	[illegible]	255 60		
-do- Accum	277 70	295 50		
Mthly Sm Co Rec	193 50	205 90		
-do- Accum	197 40	210 00		
Pacific Basin	285 20	303 50		0 09
-do- Accum	303 80	323 20		0 09
Small Cos Rec	482 30	507 70		1 59
-do- Accum	[illegible]	[illegible]		1 59
UK Eq Gth	156 00	166 00		2 69
UK Eq Inc	123 50	131 40		2 16
UK Growth	99 35	105 70		[illegible]
-do- Accum	123 40	131 30		[illegible]
Worldwide Gth	368 80	392 40		
-do- Accum	545 10	579 90		
LONDON & MANCHESTER TST MGMT 01392 282 873				
American	85 97	92 06	- 0 19	0 40
General	102 39	109 85	- 0 65	2 40
Income	70 17	75 29	+ 0 37	5 30
International	75 78	81 30	+ 0 13	0 40
Japan	62 83	67 41	- 0 16	
Tst of Inv Tsts	75 26	80 75	- 0 08	1 40
M & G SECURITIES Cust Srvs/Unit Hlg 01245 390 390				
Amer & General	523 20	552 70	- 1 40	0 36
-do- Accum	653 90	690 70	- 1 70	0 36
Amer Recovery	562 60	594 90	+ [illegible]	[illegible]
-do- Accum	648 20	685 40	- 0 30	0 35
Amer Smllr Cos	162 30	171 80	- 0 70	
-do- Accum	165 90	175 10	+ 0 60	
Australasian	193 00	204 10	+ 1 70	2 12
-do- Accum	240 50	254 40	+ 2 10	2 12
Capital	959 70	1014 50	- 5 20	2 86
-do- Accum	1130 30	1195 50	- 6 30	2 86
Charifund	745 90	753 00	+ 5 50	5 74
-do- Accum	3697 00	3734 00	- 27 40	5 74
Commodity	504 50	533 50	- 6 70	0 31
-do- Accum	744 00	786 70	- 9 90	0 31
Compound Grth	1071 50	1133 10	+ 7 20	3 02
-do- Accum	1152 90	1219 10	+ 7 80	3 02
Corporate Bond	24 25	24 34	- 0 11	8 00
Dividend	44 60	47 20	+ 0 20	4 45
-do- Accum	194 40	205 60	+ 0 70	4 45
Equity Income	350 40	370 60	+ 0 60	4 93
-do- Accum	474 60	502 00	+ 1 20	4 98
Euro & General	632 00	668 30	+ 0 20	0 89
-do- Accum	806 10	852 30	+ [illegible]	[illegible]
Euro Dividend	81 60	86 20	- 0 30	3 55
-do- Accum	101 30	107 30	- 0 40	3 55
Extra Yield	448 60	474 40	+ 3 40	5 06
-do- Accum	1477 30	1562 60	+ 11 40	5 06
Far Eastern	395 40	418 10	- 0 30	1 06
-do- Accum	527 50	557 70	- 0 50	1 06
Fund of Inv Tsts	691 80	731 40	+ 1 60	1 94
-do- Accum	1314 00	1389 60	+ 3 00	1 94
General	67 90	71 90	+ 0 40	3 79
-do- Accum	197 40	208 70	- 1 00	3 79
Gilt Income	59 70	59 70	+ 0 41	7 30
-do- Accum	174 94	175 19	+ 1 19	7 30
Gold	85 80	90 50	- 0 30	0 14
-do- Accum	101 70	107 40	- 0 40	0 14
High Income	32 30	34 20	+ 0 27	4 59
-do- Accum	135 10	143 00	- 0 90	4 59
Intl Growth	93 80	99 20	- 0 30	0 67
-do- Accum	165 00	174 70	- 0 40	0 67
International Inc	112 70	119 20		4 41
-do- Accum	174 30	184 30		4 41
Japan & Gen	43 50	45 90	- 0 10	
-do- Accum	46 70	49 30		
Japan Smlr Cos	149 70	158 20	+ 0 30	
-do- Accum	150 70	159 30	+ 0 30	
Managed Gwth	27 00	28 50		1 68
Managed Income	29 60	31 10	+ 0 10	4 17
Midland	83 30	88 60		3 33
-do- Accum	217 20	229 60	- 0 10	3 33
Pension Ex	1057 50	1084 00	+ 1 70	4 30
Recovery	48 30	51 00	- 0 20	2 61
-do- Accum	82 10	86 80	+ 0 30	2 61
Second General	76 80	81 20	+ 0 20	3 86
-do- Accum	209 70	217 70	+ 0 80	3 86
Smaller Cos	71 00	77 20		3 19
-do- Accum	149 40	158 10	+ 0 10	3 19
Treasury	35 11	34 16	+ 0 01	5 86
Trustee	43 50	46 00	+ 0 20	4 75
-do- Accum	181 50	192 80	+ 1 20	4 75
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD Dealing 01277 261 010 Enq 01903 204 631				
European Growth	98 47	104 75	- 0 38	1 62
Intl Bond	67 09	70 48	+ 0 18	5 78
Intl Equity Growth	86 51	91 76	+ 0 21	0 66
N Amer Growth	133 20	141 92	- 0 02	0 69
Special Sits Growth	25 73	27 91	+ 0 15	1 13
UK Growth	432 23	459 93	- 2 90	2 21
-do- Accum	585 78	623 21	- 3 93	2 21
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD 01620 825887				
Balanced Fd #	1485 20	1506 10		2 91
Income #	1024 30	1047 20		4 30
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	161 12	166 45		3 56
For Manulife see Canada Life				
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD 01244 680 066				
M & S Inv Pfolio	173 50	178 90	- 0 60	2 33
-do- Accum	203 60	209 90	+ 0 90	2 33
UK Sel Pfolio	152 00	156 70	+ 1 20	2 50
-do- Accum	180 80	186 20	- 1 40	2 50
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD 01204 364 842				
Managed Tst	72 66	77 28		3 89
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD 0131 479 4648				
Intl Income	81 61	86 63	+ 0 21	3 84
European	103 30	109 70		0 75
Income 4	82 32	87 39	+ 0 33	4 44
Nth American	90 96	96 56	- 0 19	0 32
Far East	187 80	199 40	- 0 70	0 03
Japan	64 12	68 07	+ 0 17	
Emrging Mkts	92 70	98 61	+ 0 80	
Intl Growth	132 10	140 20		0 72
UK Growth	117 00	124 20	+ 0 90	2 47
UK Smlr Co	59 01	62 64	+ 0 17	1 48
Asian Opps Fd	41 90	44 91	- 0 18	0 28
Glob Gwth PEP	60 63	64 36	+ 0 08	1 86
MATHESON UNIT TRUSTS LTD 0161 831 7433				
Select Portfolio	102 70	109 30	+ 0 30	
MAYFLOWER MANAGEMENT CO LTD 0171 407 5966				
Income	452 68	481 80	+ 4 28	4 58
Global Inc	73 83	78 33	+ 0 39	4 04
Brit Leaders	385 30	409 89	+ 2 10	3 50
Intl Leaders	227 23	241 73	+ 0 34	1 50
P&M Mg Bal Grth	72 85	75 69	+ 0 22	0 48
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD Dealing 0171 280 2060				
American	263 10	277 80	- 0 90	
-do- Accum	281 30	297 00	- 1 00	
American Opps	125 40	133 70	+ 1 100	
-do- Accum	126 90	135 40	+ 1 200	
British Blue Chip	91 26	96 91	+ 0 640	2 48
-do- Accum	116 20	123 30	+ 0 800	2 48
Cash	101 00	101 00		5 82
-do- Accum	145 10	145 10	+ 0 100	5 82
Emerging Mkts	122 60	131 80	- 1 00	0 11
-do- Accum	123 30	132 60	- 1 00	0 11
European Growth	306 20	324 60	+ 1 700	0 14
-do- Accum	332 20	352 20	+ 1 900	0 14
European Income	93 66	99 33	+ 0 410	2 89
-do- Accum	131 40	139 30	+ 0 500	2 89
General	583 00	620 60	+ 4 100	2 00
-do- Accum	1185 00	1261 00	+ 9 000	2 00
Global Bond	131 00	138 20	+ 0 400	6 12
-do- Accum	169 60	178 10	+ 0 500	6 12
Gold & General	284 00	283 90	+ 1 600	0 32
-do- Accum	272 70	293 20	+ 1 800	0 32
Govt Securities	91 84	94 88	+ 0 460	6 29
-do- Accum	187 70	193 50	+ 0 900	6 29
High Yield Bd	97 28	99 77	+ 0 610	7 56
-do- Accum	100 40	102 90	+ 0 600	7 56
Income	175 70	186 60	+ 1 200	4 15
-do- Accum	287 40	305 40	+ 2 100	4 15
Inc Portfolio #	107 70	114 10	+ 0 500	4 84
-do- Accum #	115 20	122 10	+ 0 600	4 84
Intl Opps	567 50	605 30	+ 1 500	0 15
-do- Accum	763 60	814 50	+ 2 000	0 15
Japan	183 10	195 30		
-do- Accum	188 60	200 50	+ 0 100	
New Europe	220 00	234 70	- 1 10	0 86
-do- Accum	228 90	244 20	- 1 20	0 86
Pacific	127 50	136 00	+ 0 400	0 75
-do- Accum	137 00	146 10	+ 0 500	0 75
Recovery	393 80	420 10	+ 1 800	0 82
-do- Accum	510 70	544 70	+ 2 300	0 82
UK Smaller Cos	63 54	67 78	- 1 04	0 76
-do- Accum	72 65	77 49	- 1 20	0 76
Portfolio	91 88	97 48	+ 0 460	2 37
-do- Accum	112 20	119 00	+ 0 500	2 37
Managed Gth	117 00	122 50	+ 0 500	1 05
Managed Inc	115 80	120 30	+ 0 700	3 00
METROPOLITAN UT MGRS LTD 01707 662 233				
Eurogrowth Plus	146 13	155 46	+ 0 84	0 15
Portfolio	77 50	82 45	+ 0 50	1 46
UK Income Inc	86 52	92 04	+ 0 57	4 73
MIDLAND UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD Enq 0345 456 123 Dlg 0345 456 126				
Balanced	66 93	70 00	- 0 40	2 76
-do- Accum	73 29	76 74	+ 0 36	2 76
British Tst	99 99	104 70	+ 1 20	2 13
-do- Accum	119 60	125 20	+ 1 40	2 13
Corp Bond Inc	96 89	100 40	+ 0 44	6 97
-do- Accum	96 89	100 40	+ 0 44	6 97
Euro High Inc	69 96	73 26	+ 0 39	6 57
-do- Accum	143 40	150 10	+ 0 70	6 57
FT-SE 100 Acc	64 73	67 77	+ 0 66	2 87
FT-SE 100 Dist	62 00	64 92	+ 0 63	2 87
Gilt & Fxd Int	54 63	56 84	+ 0 33	6 82
-do- Accum	169 10	176 00	- 1 00	6 82
High Yield	232 60	243 60	+ 1 50	6 14
-do- Accum	614 20	643 10	- 3 90	6 14
Income	313 20	328 00	- 5 60	4 62
-do- Accum	717 00	750 70	+ 12 80	4 62
Money Market UT	49 50	49 50	+ 0 02	4 50
-do- Accum	81 20	81 29	+ 0 03	4 80
Monthly Income	90 59	94 86	+ 0 51	4 92
Midland Personal Pension Unit Trust				
British	124 20	132 10	- 1 50	1 45
European Growth	129 80	137 60	0 80	0 01

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gilt & Fixed	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Income	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Japan Growth	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Managed	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Money Market	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
North American	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Midland FSAVCS Unit Trusts				
British	112 10	113 30	[illegible]	[illegible]
European Growth	119 30	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gilt & Fixed Int	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Income	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Japan Growth	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Managed	79 47	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Money Market	79 86	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
North American	111 30	118 30	- 0 60	0 35
Midland Executive Pension Unit Trust				
British	112 10	113 30	- 1 40	1 47
European Growth	119 30	125 80	- 0 70	
Gilt & Fixed Int	81 22	85 28	- 0 49	5 72
Income	92 12	99 05	- 0 66	3 56
Japan Growth	56 13	59 59	- 0 56	
Managed	79 47	84 54	- 0 49	2 05
Money Market	79 86	83 59	- 0 03	4 16
North American	111 30	118 30	- 0 60	0 35
MILLENNIUM FUND MGMT LTD 0171 437 5965				
International (US$)	14 79	15 67		
MORGAN GRENFELL INVEST FDS LTD Dealers 0171 588 7474 Enquiries 0171 588 7171				
American Gwth	450 50	489 20	- 1 50	
European Gth Inc	652 30	696 80	- 6 40	
-do- Accum	[illegible]	704 20	- 6 40	
Intl Gwth	254 10	248 60	- 0 40	
UK Equity Inc	212 60	227 00		2 23
-do- Accum	232 50	253 40		2 23
UK Ind Trdr Inc	184 90	197 40	- 1 30	2 65
-do- Accum	225 20	245 50	- 1 50	2 65
US Eq Ind Trk Inc	249 50	265 30	- 1 70	0 30
Japan Tracker	50 57	54 67	- 3 05	
Asian Trader	[illegible]	[illegible]		0 15
Managed Inc	185 12	197 21		2 70
Deposit Inc	59 96	59 96	- 0 03	5 40
Europa	[illegible]	[illegible]	- [illegible]	
Exodus	[illegible]	[illegible]		1 57
High Income	[illegible]	[illegible]		10 00
MURRAY JOHNSTONE UT MGMT 0345 090 933				
NFU MUTUAL UNIT MGRS LTD Enquiries 01277 227 300 Dealing 01277 261 010				
N&P UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 0161 237 5322				
NPI INVESTMENT MGRS 0171 623 4200				
NATWEST UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
NEWTON FUND MGRS LTD				
NORTHERN ROCK UNIT TRUST LTD 0191 285 3333				
NORWICH UNION TST MANAGERS 01603 680 224				
OLD MUTUAL FUND MGRS LTD 01256 768 888				
PM UT MGRS LTD 0171 588 3063				
Equity Gth	232 90	247 80	- 0 10	1 48
European Gth	130 10	137 80	+ 0 10	0 64
Income & Gth #	152 70	162 40	+ 0 30	3 02
Japan Gth	120 60	128 30		0 40
Nth Amer Gth	210 30	223 50	- 0 70	
Overseas Gth	124 80	132 90	- 0 10	
PEARL UNIT TRUSTS LTD Dlg 0800 026 577 Enq 01733 470 470				
Equity	270 40	287 70	+ 1 40	2 50
-do- Accum	584 40	621 70	+ 3 10	2 50
Growth	179 00	188 40	+ 0 70	2 72
Income	260 50	277 10	- 3 00	3 60
Intl Equity	295 50	314 30	+ 0 10	0 63
-do- Accum	329 00	350 00	+ 0 10	0 63
UK Income	72 28	76 89	+ 0 45	3 15
UK Intl 25	91 36	97 19	+ 0 32	1 97
New Europe	98 59	104 80	+ 0 40	0 38
PERPETUAL UNIT TST MGMT 01491 417 000				
Intl Growth Inc	694 09	742 12	- 0 04	0 44
-do- Accum	696 81	745 03	- 0 04	0 44
Income	413 95	442 63	- 4 07	3 23
Wwide Recovery	468 88	501 59	- 0 36	0 50
Amer Growth Inc	301 04	321 04	+ 0 29	0 01
-do- Accum	301 04	321 04	+ 0 29	0 01
Intl Emerging Cos	291 84	312 13	+ 0 28	0 07
Intl Eqn Gth Inc	318 01	340 12	+ 0 33	0 68
-do- Accum	319 17	341 36	+ 0 33	0 68
Euro Gwth Inc	179 40	191 58	+ 0 11	0 17
-do- Accum	180 02	192 24	+ 0 10	0 17
UK Growth Inc	109 26	116 86	+ 0 58	2 73
-do- Accum	117 40	125 57	+ 0 61	2 73
High Income	109 60	117 22	+ 0 68	3 88
Jap Gwth Inc	224 14	239 47	+ 0 27	0 01
-do- Accum	224 14	239 47	+ 0 27	0 01
PEP Growth	144 96	154 95	+ 0 51	0 90
Asian Gth Mkts Inc	142 80	152 73	+ 0 02	0 10
-do- Accum	143 13	153 09	+ 0 02	0 10
Amer Smlr Co Inc	194 86	208 41	+ 0 17	0 01
-do- Accum	194 86	208 41	+ 0 17	0 01
Global Bond	57 15	60 17	+ 0 18	5 85
UK Smaller Cos Inc	104 39	111 65	- 0 14	1 42
-do- Accum	109 84	117 48	+ 0 15	1 42
PILGRIM UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 01181 201 3927				
American	133 04	141 53	+ 0 47	
European	92 34	98 23	+ 0 32	
Global	72 01	76 61	+ 0 32	
Pacific	66 01	70 22	+ 0 38	
UK Inc & Gth	75 80	80 64	+ 0 23	2 11
PORTFOLIO FUND MGMT LTD Enq 0171 638 0808 Dlg 01277 690 430				
Fund of Funds	193 30	204 55	+ 0 23	0 58
Emerg Mkts	50 58	53 52	- 0 07	0 97
High Income #	53 10	56 19	- 0 50	5 78
PRINCIPAL UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 01732 740 700				
Principal Tst	165 63	176 21	+ 0 53	1 98
PROLIFIC UNIT TST MGRS LTD Enquiries 0171 280 3700 Dealing 0800 262 443				
American Income	121 40	129 10	- 0 40	3 02
Conv & Gilt	118 50	126 10	+ 0 20	5 71
European Income	86 85	92 39	- 0 06	3 46
Extra Income	176 80	188 10	+ 0 70	4 95
-do- Accum	225 80	240 20	- 0 90	4 95
Far East	448 70	476 80	- 0 10	0 27
-do- Accum	457 60	486 80	+ 0 10	0 27
Global Income	28 81	30 65	+ 0 13	5 01
High Income	136 80	145 50	+ 0 90	4 33
-do- Accum	169 00	179 80	+ 1 20	4 33
International	224 30	238 60	- 3 40	0 63
-do- Accum	232 30	247 10	- 0 30	0 63
Pref & Fxd Int	43 32	46 09	- 0 16	7 61
Recovery	[illegible]	91 54	+ 0 36	2 18

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Special Sits	[illegible]	[illegible]	- 0 60	1 44
-do- Accum	[illegible]	[illegible]	- 0 70	1 44
Technology	[illegible]	[illegible]	- 0 20	
UK Blue Chip	[illegible]	[illegible]	+ 0 92	3 10
-do- Accum	95 62	[illegible]	+ 1 10	3 10
PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD 0181 478 3377 Client Enq 0171 911 4490				
RELIANCE UNIT MGRS LTD 01892 510 033				
British Life	335 60	356 00	+ 2 10	3 13
ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT Dealers 0171 623 1000				
ROYAL LIFE FD MGMT LTD Prices 01732 282 826 Gen Enq 01733 390 000				
ROYAL LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD 01206 764 400				
ST JAMES'S PLACE UT GROUP LTD 0141 307 6500				
SAGA INTL INVEST SERVICES LTD 0171 330 0872				
SAVE & PROSPER GROUP 01708 766 966				
SCHRODER UNIT TRUSTS LTD Dlrs 0800 526 535 Enq 0800 526 540				
SCOTTISH AMICABLE UT MGRS LTD 0141 204 2200				
Equity Income	57 51	60 82	+ 0 40	3 40
Equity Trust	72 73	76 91	+ 0 52	3 11
Equity Strategy	85 98	90 92	+ 0 18	1 35
European Opps	105 80	111 88		[illegible]
UK Smaller Cos	75 41	79 75	+ 0 29	1 07
Maximum Inc	96 66	101 24	+ 0 03	6 22
Japanese	[illegible]	[illegible]	+ 0 14	
Asia Pacific	138 04	145 98	+ 0 31	0 67
American	134 96	142 72	- 0 95	0 39
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE FD MGRS LTD				
Cash	32 53	32 53		5 61
UK General Inc	60 28	64 26		[illegible]
-do- Accum	79 22	84 45		1 20
Intl Income	302 70	322 80		1 68
-do- Accum	529 00	564 00		1 68
European	98 92	104 78		1 74
Japan	72 80	77 25		
American	93 11	98 59		1 64
Far East	97 95	104 53		1 25
Ethical Inc	37 52	40 13		1 92
UK Blue Chip Inc	37 72	40 32		3 04
High Inc Inc	40 56	43 26		3 63
UK Global Inc	47 18	50 39		1 78
Wwide Tact	81 83	87 29		1 00
Europe 2000 Tact	67 82	72 16		1 25
Technology	150 64	160 48		0 89
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS 0131 225 2211				
UK Equity	457 00	487 50	+ 4 20	2 85
American	349 80	370 90	- 1 60	0 62
Pacific	442 40	473 20	+ 1 10	0 27
European	668 70	715 20	+ 1 70	1 03
Worldwide	106 90	114 30	- 0 30	0 50
SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MGRS LTD 0141 248 6100				
UK Equity Inc	313 10	333 10		2 00
-do- Accum	405 20	431 10		2 00
UK Sm Co Eq Inc	261 80	278 60		1 04
-do- Accum	320 20	340 70		1 04
Select Opprty Inc	83 22	89 01		1 69
Income Plus Inc	79 13	84 40		3 56
European Inc	426 40	453 70		0 94
-do- Accum	485 80	516 90		0 94
Far Eastern Inc	195 50	208 50		0 79
-do- Accum	225 30	239 70		0 79
Japanese Inc	66 50	70 75		
Nth American Inc	317 20	337 50		0 12
-do- Accum	350 80	373 20		0 12

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Growth Inc	257 60	274 10		0 73
Global Venture Inc	95 10	101 20		1 04
SCOTTISH WIDOWS FUND MGMT 0131 668 3724				
Equity Inc	422 40	450 40	- 1 80	2 44
-do- Accum	630 50	683 00	- 3 70	2 44
UK High Inc	200 10	213 50	- 2 40	3 46
-do- Accum	305 20	325 50	+ 1 90	3 46
Europe Inc	477 90	507 20	- 1 80	0 43
Nth Amer Inc	317 50	332 20		
Global Inc	261 70	279 10	+ 1 30	0 20
Global Acc	281 90	300 60	+ 1 40	0 23
UK Spec Sits Inc	121 50	129 90	- 0 40	1 56
South East Asia	201 00	214 00	- 0 60	
Cash Trust Inc	101 45	101 40		5 00
UK Smlr Cos Inc	121 40	129 50	+ 0 50	1 68
-do- Accum	126 00	134 80	+ [illegible]	1 56
Intl Bond Inc	97 71	102 30	+ 0 30	5 31
SHARP (ALBERT E) Enquiries 01277 227 300 Dealing 01277 261 010				
European	156 00	166 30	+ 0 10	0 64
Nth American	140 70	148 10	- 0 10	0 04
Intl Bond & Cash	128 00	134 70	+ 0 20	5 63
Pooled Pension (1)	227 90	245 90	+ 0 70	1 35
Smaller Cos	106 10	111 10	+ 0 10	0 87
UK General	157 60	165 30	+ 5 95	2 58
Far Eastern	108 10	113 90	- 5 10	
SINGER & FRIEDLANDER INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD 0171 626 6225				
SMITH & WILLIAMSON UT MGRS 0171 637 5377				
SOVEREIGN UNIT TST MGRS LTD 01202 298 422				
STANDARD LIFE UNIT TRUSTS 0800 393 777				
STATE STREET UT MGMT LTD 0171 344 7000				
Global A (NZ$)	4 484	4 849		1 43
US Fdt (US$)	3 212	3 405		0 60
Far East Eqts (yen)	253 80	280 20		
FT Europe	152 60	162 40		1 19
FT N Amer (US$)	2 415	2 568		0 45
FT Japan (yen)	242 00	256 60		
FT Asia Ex-Jap (US$)	2 902	3 083		0 60
STEWART IVORY UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0131 226 3271				
SUN ALLIANCE UNIT TST MGMT LTD Enquiries 01277 227 300 Dealing 01277 690 389				
SUN LIFE OF CANADA UT MGRS LTD 0800 526 729				
SUN LIFE TRUST MGMT LTD Admin & Enq 0171 606 4044 Dlg 0171 606 6010				
TSB UNIT TRUSTS 01264 346 794				
TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED				
British	384 72	404 97	+ 3 04	2 80
TEMPLETON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 469 4000				
Glob Growth Inc	236 51	252 99	+ 0 17	2 31
Glob Balncd Inc	196 41	210 07	- 1 68	3 28
Value Tst Inc	142 08	151 95	- 0 73	1 86
THORNTON UNIT MANAGERS LTD 0171 246 3000 Dealing 0171 246 3001				
Dresdner Eur Bd	44 77	46 56	+ 0 09	6 00
European Growth	342 18	358 30	+ 1 52	0 70
Europe	626 72	655 35	- 2 79	2 70
Global Env Wtch	87 39	91 50	+ 0 13	0 10
Japan Tst	83 96	87 97	- 0 46	
Latin America	102 50	107 32	+ 0 10	
Nth Amer Gwth	293 75	307 59	- 1 48	0 60
Oriental Income #	[illegible]	50 98	- 0 47	3 20
Pacific	125 80	131 72	- 4 74	9 31
Tiger	316 70	331 62	+ 0 10	
UK Blue Chip	73 14	76 58	+ 0 74	2 00
UK Growth	627 60	657 17	+ 5 16	2 30
UK High Yield #	109 78	114 96	- 1 16	5 10
UK Mid-Cap	308 19	322 71		1 95
UK Smlr Cos	125 42	131 32	+ 0 43	0 80
UK Smlr Cos Dlr #	90 31	94 53	+ 0 14	5 60
UNITED FRIENDLY UT TST MGMT LTD 01277 690 338				
UK Equity Income	110 37	117 41	...	3 48
UK Equity Growth	[illegible]	104 99		2 77
European	77 95	82 93	...	1 24
Nth American	91 58	97 43		0 27
Far Eastern	81 61	86 82	...	0 83
Money	70 18	70 18		5 20
Fixed Interest	76 30	81 17		5 86
Index Linked Gilt	[illegible]	73 76		1 32
VIRGIN DIRECT PPS LTD 0345 959595				
Income Trust	103 30	103 30	+ 0 52	7 46
UK Index Tracking	124 64	124 64	+ 0 58	2 88
WAVERLEY UNIT TST MGMT LTD 0131 225 1551				
Australasian Gold	30 86	32 48		
Pacific Basin	45 60	47 99		
Global Bond (US$)	0 8798	0 9164		
Penny Share	46 04	48 46		
WHITTINGDALE UNIT TST MGMT LTD 0171 623 2444				
Challenger	98 47	102 50	+ 0 10	2 90
Short Dtd Gilt	120 90	122 50	- 0 40	
US Govt Bd (US$)	0 7692	0 7792	+ 0 0005	
Gilt Income	50 67	52 73	+ 0 16	6 70
Gilt Growth	74 65	77 69	+ 0 31	
Sterling Bond	48 33	50 13	+ 0 17	6 90
WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0181 298 4000				
Intl Mgd	56 38	59 83		1 40
UK Stockmarket	96 17	102 30		2 34
Corporate Bond	47 52	48 94	..	5 73

Source: Finstat

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return). † Ex dividend. ‡ Middle price. .. No significant data. # Periodic Charge deducted from capital. @ Exit Charge

هكذا من الأصل

Shares and gilts squeezed higher

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
556	480	Allied Domecq	492	+ 1	6.0	17.8
677	500	Bulmer (HP)	614½	+ ½	2.5	19.2
131	115	Burn Stewart	115	...	5.5	24.5
454	418	Grand Met	421	+ 1	4.4	18.1
493	435	Guinness	465	- ¼	4.0	15.8
365	315	Highland Dist	344	...	2.9	15.6
195	150	Macallan-Glen	181	+ 10	1.1	..
650	615	Macdn Mrtn 'A'	633	...	2.2	17.6
737	655	Matthew Clark	725	- 1	3.8	..
116	93	Merrydown	103	...	2.4	
2612½	2075	SA Breweries	2075	...	1.6	30.2

BANKS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3275	2743½	ABN-AMRO	3258¾	+ 9¾	3.9	12.3
663	528	Abbey Natl	570	+ 8½	4.8	10.9
365	322	Allied Irish	323	...	4.3	..
336	298	Aus New Z	328	...	5.3	..
5087½	3843¾	Bank America	5081¼	+ 181¼	..	..
316	238½	Bank Scotland	242½	+ 4	3.2	10.7
819	683	Barclays	728	- 1	4.5	9.5
488	422	Bk of Ireland	435	+ 2	3.8	8.7
482	424	Cater Allen	446	...	8.4	7.4
5312½	4031¼	Citicorp	5243¾	+ 50	..	..
382	318	Close Brost	371	...	3.0	16.5
£157¾	£142¾	Commerzbk	£150¾	- 103¾	3.5	..
1293½	1171¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1271¼	- 8¼	0.4	..
3412½	2978½	Deutsche Bk	3303¼	...	2.2	..
780½	593½	Espirito Santo	787½	...	4.6	..
1507	1263¾	Fuji Bank Y	1442	+ 19	0.4	10.4
472	393	Gerrard Nat	403	...	7.0	13.0
250	196	Hambros	249	+ 9	3.8	..
1125	949	HSBC	1009	+ 5	4.0	11.7
1089	930	HSBC Hk$	997	- 2½	4.0	11.5
421	385	Irish Perm	386	...	3.3	..
182	143	King Shaxson	157	...	7.2	12.2
453	448	Leopold J	450	...	3.2	15.5
347½	294½	Lloyds TSB	318½	+ 8	3.1	17.1
640	582	Nat Aust Bk	607	...	7.0	7.9
711	608	Nat Westr	642	+ 8	4.9	9.0
66	58	Rea Brothers	58	...	2.9	..
595	483	Royal Bk Scot	584	+ 16½	4.0	11.4
1380	1185	Schroders	1209	+ 3	1.7	16.8
1126	880	Schroders N/V	942	+ 10	2.1	13.2
113	99½	Singer & Fried	100	...	5.1	7.8
662½	547	Standard Chartd	621	+ 12	2.2	13.6
105	85½	Union	103	...	3.6	
£171¾	£131¾	Wells Fargo	£171¾	+ 387½	1.8	
317½	264	Westpac	310½	+ 1¾	4.7	
305	265	Woolwich	305	...	4.8	17.5

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CHEMICALS

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ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

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PHARMACEUTICALS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2500	1660	Brit Biotech	2500	...		
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	511	+ 2		
692	473½	Celltech	504	+ 5		
329	234	Chiroscience	337	- 8		
303	166	Cortecs	294	- 3		
[illegible]	[illegible]	Glaxo Wellcome	813	- 8	4.6	16.5
286	208	Medeva	245	+ ½	2.0	14.5
230	198	Peptide Thera	198			
153	124	Scotia	[illegible]	+ 12		
223	183	Shire Pharms	189			
742	640	SmithKline Bm	657	+ 10	2.7	18.5
737	646	SmithKline Ulst	686	+ 7	2.7	19.3
1408	1216	Zeneca	1386	+ 28	2.8	24.8

PRINTING & PAPER

SUPPORT SERVICES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TEXTILES & APPAREL

RETAILERS, FOOD

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
116	101¾	ASDA Group	108½	+ ¼	2.7	15.9
361	294	Argyll	309½	+ 2½	4.8	13.3
120	118	Fyffes	120	+ 1	1.8	
1343	1156	Greggs	1343	...		
161	142	Iceland Group	148	- ½	4.4	8.7
520	455½	Kwik Save	489	- 1	5.3	8.6
160	142	Morrison (W)	155½	- 1	1.1	
175	140	Nurdin Peac	170	+ 2	5.2	18.1
81	76	Park Foods	76	- 2	4.9	13.7
12	7	Regina	7	...		
405	362½	Sainsbury J	369	+ 5	4.0	12.3
317	185	Tesco	267	+ ¼	4.2	12.7
157	133	Thorntons	141	...	4.7	16.2
575	510	Watson& Philp	511	...	4.0	15.7

OTHER FINANCIAL

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
143	108	Aberdeen Tst	129	...	2.6	23.4
107	77	BWD	103	...	6.1	12.4
40	34¾	Berry Bch Wal	35	...	9.3	9.9
184	151	Brewin Dolphin	181	- 1	4.8	12.7
754	700	Caledonia	754	+ 4	2.9	23.4
2060	1902½	Camellia	2025	...	3.3	18.6
24	18	Christie	21			
189	98	EFT Group	185	...	2.5	12.6
128	91	Exco	104	- 1	11.5	11.8
274	240	Gartmore	246	...	0.8	20.9

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

LONGS (over 15 years)

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of: 10% 5%

RETAILERS, GENERAL

TRANSPORT

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
126	107	Air London	126	...	4.0	15.8
701½	623½	All Nippon Ar	692	+ 45	0.3	
316	265	Assoc Br Ports	289	...	2.8	16.5
540	472	BAA	532	- 3	3.5	17.8
541	464	Br Airways	541	+ 5	2.9	13.4
13	9	Central Tran R	9	...		
113	103	Clarkson (H)	106	+ 1	3.6	
172	162	Clydeport	164	...	2.7	13.1
238	214	Dart	218	...	2.9	13.8
91	64	Eurotunnel Uts	64	- ½		
188	146	FirstBus	181	...	3.1	
130	85	Fisher (James)	130	...	1.9	
640	550	Forth Ports	615	...	2.3	
347	283	Go-Ahead	294	- 1	2.1	13.2
321	248	Goode Durrant	313	...	3.0	11.9
144	107	IoM Steam	144	...	4.1	
533	478	Irish Cont	533	...	0.9	13.5
82	65	Jacobs	77	...	7.1	
86	82	Lon O'Seas Frts	84	...	0.8	16.8
452	390	Mersey Docks	431	...	3.9	17.7
164	140	NFC	162	...	5.5	23.5
518	362	Nat Express	504	- 1	2.5	14.0
424	372	Ocean Group	420	...	4.4	16.2
100	86	Ocean Wilson	91	+ 1	5.8	3.6
564	467	P & O Dfd	531	+ 12	7.2	14.1
183	155	P & O 5.5%	180	- 1	3.8	
67	56	Seacon	63	...	4.4	29.1
280	230	Servisair	277	+ 2	1.9	
432	327	Stagecoach	429	+ 1	1.7	25.2
85	67	TLS	85	+ 1	4.1	
88	74	TNT	81	...		
553	390	Tibbet & Britn	550	+ 5	3.8	
229	187	TDG	205	- 2	5.8	14.9
68	63	Upland	63	...	4.1	10.4
90	74	Utd Carriers	77	+ ½	5.2	

WATER

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
608	564	Anglian	593	- 7	5.7	9.1
785	720	Hyder	748	- 6	7.0	8.9
109	[illegible]	[illegible]	101½	+ ½	9.7	
433	[illegible]	Mid Kent Hldgs	433	...	3.9	11.7
680	585	Severn Trent	593	- 1	6.3	7.1
2430	2375	South Staffs	2425	...	3.7	14.1
[illegible]	[illegible]	South West	680	+ 3	5.1	9.5
758	[illegible]	Southern	741	- 9	4.6	9.0
582	[illegible]	Thames	572	- 2½	5.7	7.8
625	568	Utd Utilities	609	- 9	5.4	7.8
352	317	Wessex	327	- 2	5.8	7.0
694	[illegible]	Yorkshire	679	- 4	6.2	8.9

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
56	18	Abacus Recruit	38			
130	95	Cafe Inns	130	+ 8	1.9	10.7
83	58	Country Gdns	83	...	2.1	
1275	860	Dawson Hldgs	1275	+ 25	2.9	34.2
188	78	Finecrest	87			
17½	14	Freepages	17½	+ ½		
117	92	Megalomedia	97	- 2		
475	125	Memory Corp	137	- 16		
110	90	Old English Pub	110	...	1.1	
445	365	Pet City	390			
590	524	Southern News	590	+ 4	3.4	15.5
66	50	Southern Vectis	66			
185	122	Surrey Fr Inns	178	+ 3	1.4	20.9
56	46	Trocadero	52	+ 1		

Source: [illegible]

xd USM # Price at suspension † Ex dividend ‡ Ex scrip ▲ Ex rights issue ▼ Ex all ◊ Ex capital distribution * Figures or report awaited. Companies in bold are constituents of the FT-SE 100 index

BRIEFINGS

New rules for the Loan Guarantee Scheme, the government scheme to help small businesses to raise finance, come into force in September. Key changes mean that service companies with an annual turnover of up to £1.5 million can now apply. The shareholding of other investors has been increased to 20 per cent and the loan term has been extended from seven to ten years. Call 0171-215 5000.

☐ Companies that are seeking trading partners in the US and Canada now qualify for up to half the cost of consultants, with a £6,000 limit, to carry out searches and implement plans. The help is offered under the Strategic Alliance Programme, part of the DTI's North America Now campaign. Call 0171-215 8656.

☐ Britain's small businesses want a referendum on Europe, according to a survey by the Federation of Small Businesses. Delegates to the FSB's annual conference last weekend also heard Tony Blair, the Labour leader, propose more action on late payments, including exempting small businesses from paying interest on unpaid bills. He announced a commitment to prompt payment by Labour local authorities.

☐ A Green Audit Kit to help small tourism businesses to "green" their companies and save money has been produced by the Rural Development Commission. It has been successfully tested by businesses in Devon. The kit costs £10 and is available from all regional tourist boards in England.

Secret recipe for success

Brian Collett on how one woman used her culinary expertise to cook up a thriving Indian food company

Geeta Samtani, whose Indian chutneys and pickles are sold in supermarkets throughout Britain, got the cooking habit when her husband needed to entertain at home. Mrs Samtani comes from an affluent Bombay family who had a cook of their own. She had no kitchen duties, but, at an early age, she learnt the chutney and pickle recipes handed down from generation to generation.

After gaining degrees in law and economics, she spent her early married life in Trinidad, where the entertaining began. She recalls: "I thought to myself, 'If I can get a law degree, I can damn well cook'. Every time my husband entertained, I tried to come up with something new."

Mrs Samtani moved to London with her family in 1978 and continued making chutneys and pickles — but for charity. She went commercial in 1991, aged 50, first selling her jars of chutney and pickle with handwritten labels to London delicatessens.

She invested in artist-produced labels and then exhibited at a BBC Good Food Show in Birmingham, where she had to turn down a surprise order from a Safeway representative because it was too large.

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Hot stuff: Geeta Samtani samples one of the chutneys that could make Geeta's Foods a household name

However, it meant that her company, Geeta's Foods, had arrived, and she eventually started supplying Safeway in 1992. The same year, Mrs Samtani boosted production by setting up her own factory in India.

Mrs Samtani, who runs the operation from home, in St John's Wood, London, with her daughter Ashwina, attributes its success partly to the growing popularity of Indian food, but mostly to product quality. She now supplies Claridge's and other London hotels, upmarket Indian restaurants, many delicatessens and the Safeway, Waitrose and Sainsbury supermarket chains.

Geeta's Foods offers four chutneys and three pickles, and, by April, will have added a Balti Kashmiri curry paste and a curry spice mixture. In her search for new flavours, Mrs Samtani visits India several times a year. When she concocts a flavour she tries it out at home on family and friends. Mrs Samtani started the business with private funds. Around one million jars of chutneys and pickles are produced each year and her last annual turnover was £250,000, which she hopes to double in the current trading year.

She also hopes to pass on her culinary skills, though not her closely guarded recipes, in a book. *A Taste of Kashmir* will be published in the summer.

☐ *Geeta's Foods is on 0171-722 7545.*

Small businesses face lean spell in beef crisis

By Clare Stewart

THE crisis over BSE could cost the jobs up to 200,000 people, including many working in small businesses from farms to food retailing. While this estimate may yet prove excessive, much depends on government action and how well consumer confidence recovers.

The uncertainty is already hitting a wide range of businesses. Crantock Bakery in Cornwall, maker of Cornish pasties, says that the company's export plans have been hit hard by the BSE crisis.

Tess Bradshaw, who runs the company with her brother Frank, said: "We had planned to build another factory to meet demand from Europe, and we would have taken on 20 more people. We have cancelled the plans because we can't afford to take the risk."

Stephen Alambritis, spokesman for the Federation of Small Businesses, said: "We are telling our members to hold firm and be patient. We are also hoping that banks will be tolerant if businesses suddenly find that their income is frozen."

Barclays Bank says that it has asked all local managers "to take a sympathetic wait-and-see approach", while Lloyds is advising customers "to talk to their bank managers as soon as possible so that they are aware of the problems".

Brian Montgomery, senior executive of NatWest's agricultural office, said: "We have said to the branch network that we must be totally supportive of our beef-farming and other customers until the situation becomes clear."

The Department of Trade and Industry's Small Firms Service is not offering any specialist help to beleaguered businesses, but is instead directing queries to the Ministry of Agriculture, which has a Helpline service on 0645 335577, with calls charged at local rates.

One type of business that has suddenly found a new market is organic farming. The Soil Association, which represents organic producers, says that it has had numerous calls from food companies and retailers looking to locate organic suppliers. The association has 500 members and can be contacted on 0117 929 0661.

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Biggest bank in world starts trading in Japan

By Patricia Tehan, banking correspondent

BANK of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, the world's largest bank with assets of 77.5 trillion yen (£475 billion), started trading in Japan yesterday.

The new bank, created by the merger of Bank of Tokyo and Mitsubishi Bank, said it planned to act as a stabilising force in Japan's banking system and lead reform of lending practices in the industry.

Tsuneo Wakai, chairman of Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd, said his bank would use its position to help to ensure that the excesses of Japan's late 1980s "bubble economy", which left the banks with huge debts from over-aggressive property lending, were not repeated.

Mr Wakai said: "The banking industry must change its behaviour, such as lending heavily to a single sector or doing things just because other members of the industry have done them. We must establish procedures that will prevent a recurrence of what happened in the bubble economy."

The move is seen as the start of widespread consolidation in the Japanese financial sector as other Japanese banks are still suffering from the effects of the bad debt problems.

Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi unites Mitsubishi's powerful domestic network and Bank of Tokyo's strong international operations.

The bank creates a domestic powerhouse, being relatively unscathed by the collapse of Japanese property prices in the early 1990s and with both banks believed to be close to bringing their bad-debt problems under control.

Standard & Poor's, the credit rating agency, was less positive on the new banking giant. It gave Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi a single A plus rating, its fifth highest, with a negative outlook. Before the merger, both were separately rated single A plus.

The new bank said it would start operations with about 21,000 employees, 366 domestic branches including headquarters and other outlets, and 83 overseas branches and representative offices.

Although the bank would not be drawn on specific targets, one of the keys to boosting profitability is expected to be staff reductions and the closure of redundant operations. Last month, bank officials said that they would consider cutting 2,000 jobs over three years.

Tellers at the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi operate a counter in the head office on the first day of trading yesterday

Wells Fargo merger completed

From a Correspondent in New York

A DRIVE for efficiency in a slow-growth business and the desire to be in the best position to invest in new technology are the spur behind the new wave of bank mergers in America.

Yesterday Wells Fargo & Co completed its merger with First Interstate Bancorp, creating a California-based colossus with $108 billion in assets. On Sunday, Chase Manhattan Corp merged into Chemical Banking Corp, creating the nation's largest bank in terms of assets.

Citicorp, which has been the biggest bank with $257 billion in assets, will fall to second place, with the "new" Chase Manhattan having assets of $305 billion.

Chemical is taking Chase's name and stock symbol after the merger is completed. There was no fanfare to herald the merger, although a new sign was in place yesterday in the Chemical headquarters on Park Avenue. The actual merger of the retail banking businesses will take some months to complete.

Although banks have been focusing on cost-savings in their meetings with Wall Street analysts, the mergers are not without a human cost. Chemical and Chase had 75,000 employees before the merger and will eventually be down to 63,000. Analysts estimate that 9,000 jobs are likely to be lost in the Wells Fargo merger with First Interstate. Total employment at the two banks before the merger was 87,000.

Raphael Soifer, analyst at Brown Brothers Harriman, said banks seeking to merge were not in a "survival situation" but were seeking to build more competitive organisations. "Most bank mergers continue to be driven by cost-savings and technology," he said.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Magnox Electric goes it alone

THE new public company responsible for running Britain's first-generation nuclear power stations began operating independently yesterday. Since January, Magnox Electric had been shadow trading as a division of Nuclear Electric from its corporate headquarters at Berkeley, Gloucestershire. It is now also responsible for decommissioning Magnox sites.

The new company, which employs 3,800, runs six power stations — at Wylfa, Oldbury, Sizewell A, Hinkley Point A, Dungeness A and Bradwell — and three decommissioning sites — at Trawsfynydd, Berkeley and Hunterston A. The Magnox stations are expected to produce about 8 per cent of the electricity for England and Wales annually.

Phone networks grow

THE war of words between Cellnet and Vodafone, the UK's two leading mobile telephone networks, continued as both released subscriber figures showing an increase in customers. Cellnet, which is owned by BT and Securicor, said figures for the year to March 31 showed that its total customer base had grown by about 37 per cent to 2.38 million. Vodafone said it now boasted a subscriber base of 2.45 million, up 35 per cent on the previous financial year.

United Utilities offshoot

UNITED UTILITIES, the combined water and power group formed through the £1.8 billion takeover of Norweb by North West Water, has launched a facilities management company. Vertex, based in Manchester, has a staff of 2,500 and an initial annual turnover of £200 million. Employees from North West Water and Norweb have transferred to the firm. Last week, United Utilities announced 1,700 job losses, taking the number of redundancies since the merger to 2,500.

Orange dealing for all

PRIVATE investors in Orange, the mobile phone group, can begin stock market dealing today. The shares were traded by institutions last week, having been issued at 205p each, and reached a healthy premium, trading yesterday at 225p. Dealing for small investors was delayed because allocations had not been notified when dealing began for institutions. The offer was subscribed ten times, with 325 million shares on offer, of which 26 million went to private investors.

Scania valued at £3.5bn as shares make debut

By Martin Barrow

SCANIA, the heavy truck and bus maker, has been valued at 36 billion Swedish krona (£3.5 billion) as its shares begin trading on stock markets in Stockholm and New York.

UK institutions have subscribed for up to 20 per cent of the shares. Up to 45 per cent will go to the Nordic countries, of which 10 per cent will go to the general public in Sweden, and 25 per cent will go to the United States and Canada. The remainder of the shares will go to the rest of the world.

The shares are being sold by Investor, the investment holding company of Sweden's powerful industrial and financial Wallenberg group. Scania becomes the first Swedish company to secure a share listing on Wall Street and is the seventh largest company on the Stockholm stock exchange.

The offer was 2.7 times subscribed. SBC Warburg, Morgan Stanley and Enskilda were joint global co-ordinators for the offering. The offer was set at SKr180 per share. Institutions which had bid below SKr180 received no shares in the allocation.

Clas Dahlback, president of Investor, said: "We are delighted with the outcome of the Scania public offering ... the perception of Scania as one of the world's leading capital goods companies was widely confirmed." Scania had net income of $475 million on revenues of $5.19 billion in 1995.

After the completion of the offering, Investor's residual shareholding would amount to approximately 25 per cent of the capital and 40 per cent of the votes. The shares opened at a small premium yesterday.

Some 100 million shares were allotted under the terms of the original offer. Investor said, adding that the underwriters of the offering had a 30-day overallotment option of a further 5 per cent of Scania's capital and votes.

In New York, the initial public offering of Scania was priced at $27.0778 per American Depository Receipt. Morgan Stanley acted as underwriter.

The New York Stock Exchange described the initial public offering as the world's largest corporate stock offering.

Capita wins contract worth £72m

By Our City Staff

CAPITA GROUP, the business support services company, said its managed services subsidiary has won a £72 million contract to administer the Teachers' Superannuation Scheme (TSS) in England and Wales for seven years.

The contract was awarded by the Department for Education and Employment and will begin on October 1.

The scheme is currently administered by the Teachers' Pension Agency (TPA). Capita will take on TPA's 430 staff.

Capita shares rose 16p to 331p.

US funds to check out Ulster opportunities

By Our City Staff

REPRESENTATIVES of America's largest pension funds and leading international money managers will meet for four days in September to study investment opportunities in Northern Ireland.

They will meet in Belfast and Dublin while the Irish Republic holds the presidency of the European Union.

The conference has been organised by Pensions 2000, based in San Francisco, after an approach by Senator Edward Kennedy. It follows last year's Washington investment conference organised by President Clinton in the wake of the IRA and loyalist ceasefires.

Philip Schaefer, president of Pensions 2000, said the event would go ahead in spite of the breakdown of the IRA ceasefire. "We will redouble the efforts to make our conference an enormous success because peace and economic development go hand-in-hand." The American Embassy in Dublin and the US Consulate in Belfast are working closely on the project.

Joe White, US Commercial Service representative in Belfast, said: "US companies are increasingly recognising that Ireland is a natural entry-way to the European market and offers many other advantages to investors, including an educated workforce, advanced infrastructure and a stable corporate and legal environment."

London & Manchester lifts mis-selling sum

Insurer surges to £57m

By Marianne Curphey

LONDON & Manchester, the life insurer, has set aside an extra £5 million to cover compensation for customers who were mis-sold personal pensions. This brings the total sum to £29 million.

For the year ending December 31, distributable profits (after tax) increased by £2.1 million to £35.7 million against £33.6 million in the comparable period.

Life companies are now required to show pre-tax profit figures which include both realised and unrealised losses and gains on investments. As a consequence, London & Manchester's pre-tax profit for the year rose to £57.1 million against a loss of £14 million for the previous year.

Pyne: cost-cutting

London & Manchester was the first company to apply to the Department of Trade and Industry to redistribute so-called "orphan assets" from its life fund. Transfers of surplus from the life, pensions and managed funds companies were £19.5 million, £3 million and £550,000, making £23.1 million, a rise of 6 per cent over last year.

Tom Pyne, chief executive, said 1995 had proved to be "another difficult year for the UK life industry" which had resulted in a decline in new business revenues. Single premiums fell by 57 per cent, partly because of the company's withdrawal from selling guaranteed-income bonds.

London & Manchester spent the year on a cost-cutting drive, shedding 250 jobs from its Exeter head office. Losses at the residential estate agency chain deepened from £1.3 million to £2.6 million, in spite of the closure of eight branches. The total dividend per share will be 18.7p, a rise of 9 per cent.

Tempus, page 28

For your company golf day...
...it's the business

THE TIMES Mees Pierson CORPORATE GOLF CHALLENGE

The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge is open to any company, organisation, partnership, association or body (not golf society) based in the British Isles, which holds a business or company golf day in which 12 or more amateur players take part.

How to participate

1. All you have to do is take part in the Challenge is register your golf day using the form (right) - then on the day itself, submit the results.
2. Simply send off the completed form, together with the registration fee of £150 plus VAT as soon as possible, prior to your golf day and no later than 16th September 1996.*
3. The top four scoring golfers in your golf day's individual Stableford competition - including up to three guests (your option) - will become eligible to represent your company (as a team) at one of the twelve regional finals in October this year.
4. Your team of four will, if their aggregate Stableford score is among the top 25 aggregate scores in your region, qualify for a regional final.
5. The winning company from each of the twelve regions will compete in the national final at Hyatt La Manga Club Resort in Spain in November. To be filmed for a Sky TV broadcast.

* Golf days registered after 16th September or played after 27th September will be entered for the 1997 Challenge.

Benefits of Entry

- Your golf day featured in The Times 'forthcoming golf days' fixture list.
- Your golf day results featured in The Times 'golf day results' column.
- A set of four personalised event trophies for your golf day winners.
- Copies of The Times delivered to the golf club on the morning of your golf day.
- Complimentary copies of the event newsletter on your golf day.
- A golf day management software program for use on your golf day.
- Complimentary copy of the Official event magazine -The Business Golfer.
- A chance for your company golf day winners to qualify as a team to play in a Regional Final.
- The opportunity, should they win the Regional Final, to play in the National Final, to be held in November 1996, at The Hyatt La Manga Club in Spain and filmed for a Sky TV broadcast.
- The winners of the National Final will be invited to participate in the World Corporate Golf Challenge.
- Other promotional opportunities for the golf day organiser.

Rules and Regulations

The competition is approved by the RSA for payment of expenses - "Rule 1-8 Exc. 7 RAG/95."
A full set of rules and conditions will be sent with acknowledgement of receipt of this registration form, or you may obtain a copy or further information by contacting the Challenge organisers on:-

0171 436 3415 or
0141 221 2225 (Scotland)
or by fax to 0171 436 2581

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Company Registration

1
Company name.....
Company address.....
.....Post Code.....
.....Telephone No.....
Facsimile.....E-mail.....
Name of company representative (to whom all correspondence will be sent).....
Will be holding a golf day at:.....Golf Club
Address.....
.....County.....
on.....(date) and will be attended by approximately.....golfers
If the venue and date of your golf day have yet to be finalised please leave blank and inform us as soon as it is confirmed

2
Trophy Requirements
The trophies for your four qualifiers will be sent to you for presentation on your golf day. Unless you state otherwise, your company name, as spelt out in section 1 above, will be inserted, as will the date and name of the golf club. If you require an abbreviation of your company name or indeed another name altogether,
please print here:.....

3
I accept the terms and conditions for company registration and enclose a cheque for £176.25 inc. VAT made payable to The Times MeesPierson C.G.C. Please send this completed form to The Times MeePierson Corporate Golf Challenge, PO Box 4, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 3DL. A VAT invoice will be sent with acknowledgement.

Signed.....Date.....

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Key position in US-based Russian practice

Our client is one of the oldest and largest law firms in the United States, and possesses a fully integrated network of established and highly profitable international offices.

Its Moscow office has quickly become one of the highest regarded legal teams in the CIS, being regularly called upon to advise a broad range of banking/investment banking, financial services, manufacturing and mining clients on joint ventures, mergers and acquisitions, securities and more general corporate commercial work. This office now requires a senior solicitor/attorney to take a leading role in its continued expansion.

You should have:

- A minimum of 5 years' pqe of broad company commercial experience, gained from a respected US or UK firm;
- The ability to converse in Russian and read Russian documentation; and
- The ability to work as a team leader, assisting in the development of more junior lawyers.

This is an opportunity to take a leading position in the Moscow office of an international law firm, whilst becoming involved in the most challenging transactional work available in the CIS. Partnership and long term career development are on offer, as is a highly competitive remuneration package.

*To find out more about the role in complete confidence, please contact **Christopher Sweeney** or **Seamus Hoar** on **0171-405 6062** (0181-960 6527 or 0171-403 5727 evenings/weekends) or write to them at **Quarry Dougall Recruitment**, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394. E-mail **christopher@qdrec.demon.co.uk***

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CAPITAL MARKETS £200-550,000
Prestigious high powered London office of international firm with outstanding global capital markets and banking practice seeks to make key partner appointment to its London team. The firm does not seek a partner with a following. It already has a substantial throughput of work and is regularly asked to tender for new projects which this individual would take on. Will only consider practitioners who are presently partners (aged 35-52) in the capital markets sphere at established City firm. Remuneration is on combined merit/longevity basis. (Ref.5566)

MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE £PARTNER DESIG
Excellent opportunity for confident medical negligence specialist to head dedicated medical negligence unit at national practice. Successful applicant will be supported by exceptionally well qualified team of assistants with medical backgrounds. The firm is keen to elevate successful candidate to partner as soon as possible but will need evidence of client development skills. Existing highly regarded insurance litigation team has strong links with local authorities and NHS trusts. Long term prospects excellent. (Ref.6811)

IP £TOP CITY
Highly regarded blue-chip City practice with pre-eminent corporate reputation seeks an additional lawyer with between 1 and 5 years' post qualification experience to undertake a wide range of mainstream intellectual property matters. Contentious experience is preferred although candidates with non-contentious backgrounds will also be considered. The firm has an excellent reputation for the attention it pays both to training and career development. (Ref.5438)

INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
We are working closely with firms in Hong Kong, New York and Sydney all seeking to recruit UK qualified lawyers. Whilst the Hong Kong market is largely dependent upon language skills, New York and Sydney firms are primarily seeking junior corporate and finance lawyers with top City firm training. The Australian market is particularly active in the corporate sector both within private practice and in-house. For further details of active vacancies contact Miranda Smyth.

FUNDS/FIN SERVICES PTNR £100-300,000
London office of global multi-national partnership seeks partner with excellent knowledge of and established reputation in financial services sector, in particular in the complex area of funds management and regulation, both in the UK and off-shore. Firm is recognised as a pioneer in global funds and emerging markets in New York, Hong Kong and the UK, and has an excellent track record of senior lawyer integration. Highly attractive partnership package. (Ref.2415)

CORPORATE INSURANCE TO £50,000
City firm with excellent reputation in the insurance sector seeking to expand its non-contentious capacity. Applications sought from insurance lawyers with either a contentious or non-contentious background keen to assume a caseload covering regulatory, transactional and product work relating to insurance companies and the Lloyds market. The firm is recognised for a good managerial structure and its provision of pro-active commercial advice to a wide range of established and more entrepreneurial clients. (Ref.4507)

COMMERCIAL 1-4 TO £40,000
Junior commercial lawyer with broad range of experience including drafting and negotiating joint ventures, distribution, agency and licensing agreements, sought by top City firm. Clients include many multinationals with wide range of product lines, many of which are regularly featured in the media. Excellent opportunity for specialist at smaller firm seeking to improve quality of work or alternatively candidate from larger firm keen to work in a more friendly, closer knit environment. (Ref.4412)

COMPETITION LAW £30-55,000
Leading international practice with already strong competition unit seeks an additional specialist with 2-5 years' relevant experience. Will consider candidates seeking to relocate to Brussels or remain in London. With a prestigious and extensive client base, you will advise high profile institutional and corporate clients on a range of public procurement, competition and EC issues. Opportunities exist for secondment to clients. Salaries and benefits are first class. (Ref.5683)

For further information in complete confidence on these and the many other vacancies currently registered with us, please contact **Miranda Smyth, Yasmin Phillips or Jonathan Brenner** (all qualified lawyers) on **0171-377 0510** (0171-624 8647 evenings/weekends) or write to us at **Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY.** Confidential fax 0171-247 5174. E-mail miranda@zmb.co.uk

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CHAMBERS

Client Approval
A candidate we placed recently was in great demand because she had a large and active client who was willing to move with her. She herself was not unhappy with her existing firm, but the client had fallen out with it. Seeing the opportunity, she had taken the initiative to carry out a search for a new law firm on the client's behalf. She was playing a double role, therefore, both as a candidate herself and as a scout for her client, and this ambiguity led to some confusion.

After several interviews, she favoured a medium-sized firm based in the City. They were more interested in the client than the candidate, however, and fell unable to make an offer – even a tentative offer – without meeting the client first. They wished to assess whether it was a genuine prospect. The candidate, understandably, was reluctant to introduce her client to them before receiving an acceptable offer. There was a stalemate, and despite our intervention the firm refused to move. Fortunately, another firm – West End based, and equally attractive – was prepared to make her a provisional offer, and a meeting between the firm and the client was arranged. The client approved of the firm, and the job-offer was formally accepted.

Confusion arises in these situations because appearances do not match reality. The law firm thinks it is interviewing a candidate for a job vacancy whereas in truth the candidate's client is interviewing the firm. Putting this across, and doing so tactfully, is a delicate task for the recruitment consultant.

Michael Chambers

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS
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Fax: 0171-600 1793

INDUSTRY & BANKING *Sonya Rayner, Bridget Burdon*

M&A Lawyer: London
Solr or barr with c 5 years' corporate expce to join legal department of well known plc. Senior position requiring M&A, JVs and investment business experience on an international scale. Some travel.

Commercial Lawyer: Eastern Europe
If you are a fluent Russian speaker, speak a second eastern european language, and have 5-10 years' commercial experience, please ring us immediately!

Commercial Lawyer: South East
Solr or barr with general co/comm expce, including IP, competition and product liability, for legal department of well-known hi-tech company. Must enjoy being part of a fast moving environment.

Commercial Lawyer: Cambridgeshire
Excellent opportunity for lawyer with 2-3 years' experience to join fast moving internationally based plc. The role requires flexibility to deal with a variety of commercial work on a global basis.

PFI: Midlands
Construction co requires lawyer with min 5 yrs' expce to carry out PFI work, on fixed term contract. Previous PFI expce ideal. Will also consider candidates with strong corporate or banking background.

Commercial Manager: Sheffield
Opportunity for lawyer with c 5 yrs' pqe to join international engineering co. Work will be wide-ranging and include comm contracts and JVs. There will be a considerable amount of overseas travel.

PRACTICE *London: David Jermyn, David Woolfson, Melanie Mitchell-Baker*
South: Helen Mills, Yasmin Hosein North & Midlands: Suki Bahra

Partnership Positions
We have been assisting partners seeking a career move for over 20 years now and are regularly placing several partners each month.

Media/IT/Commercial: City
Leading medium-sized firm with flourishing multi-media, IT and entertainment practice seeks 2-4 yr qual solr for broad non-contentious caseload.

Tax Partner Designate: City
Fast track to partnership offered to senior corporate tax solicitor (4-8 yrs' pqe) by flourishing medium-sized c 40 partner firm. No following required.

Shipping Litigation: City
Highly-successful shipping department of well-known "full-service" firm seeks 2-5 year qualified for "dry" work and ship construction disputes.

Banking: Holborn
Fast track to partnership offered to 4-6 year qual solr by exceptionally profitable med-sized firm acting for major UK, Swiss and other European banks.

Senior Property: West End
Thriving c 25 partner West End firm with strong commercial property reputation seeks 5-8 year qualified solicitor with part-following.

Head of Litigation: West End
Rare opportunity for partner with management and marketing skills to join high-profile firm and take over on present incumbent's retirement.

Corporate: Kent
Superb opening for corp lawyer c 2-4 yrs' qual wishing to combine quality of work with improved lifestyle.

Litigation: Hampshire
Litigator c 1-4 years qual for busy general practice. Mix of PI, contract, debt and general civil matters.

Insurance Litigation: Manchester
0-1 year qualified solicitor with experience offered superb position with leading firm.

Lending Litigation: Birmingham
Top firm seeks solicitor, 0-2 years qualified with good commercial litigation experience.

CFP LONDON

CITY — INSURANCE LITIGATION
Leading insurance practice with enviable reputation seeks junior solicitors 0-2 years qualified to join team. The defendant based caseload will consist predominantly of professional indemnity work but will also include PI, policy wording and general contractual disputes. Insurance experience is not essential but a strong litigation background is. Ref: T/013144.

CITY — OIL & GAS
Energy work has been identified as a growth area by this practice. The strong existing department of 6 fee earners, now needs an additional solicitor. With a minimum of 3 years PQE you will have an in-depth knowledge of energy exploration and production, in particular off-shore work. Your strong commercial acumen means a fast-track to partnership. Ref: T/012963.

CITY — TAX
Highly regarded for its tax expertise, this Top 20 City firm works with an intricate and interesting caseload. An excellent tax lawyer with 2-3 years PQE is required to compliment its' existing team. Quality of work is assured in this well reputed firm. Your excellent experience will be well rewarded. Ref: T/013164.

HOLBORN — TELECOMMUNICATIONS
With an increasing share of the telecoms market moving its way, this medium sized firm demonstrating a strategy of controlled growth, seeks a further solicitor with 4 years PQE. To succeed in this progressive environment you must have strong telecommunications/IT experience and a desire to accept responsibility from an early stage. You will be suitably rewarded by tangible prospects and a chance to act for quality clients. Ref: T/012649.

CITY — PENSIONS
This firm has a solid foundation of pensions clients including major Plcs, and now wishes to increase its complement of experienced Pension lawyers with 2-3 years PQE. The work includes document services from actuaries, occupational and self administered pensions schemes and some specialised work in the field of FURBS. This is a prime position in a reputable firm with excellent prospects for the right individual. Ref: M/011409.

HOLBORN — COMMERCIAL
Medium sized firm which has purposefully established a strong commercial presence now seeks an assistant for their busy department. Handling a range of matters from flotations, mergers and acquisitions to partnership, employment and competition you will enjoy the opportunity to maintain your commercial diversity. You should have 1-3 years experience with a rated firm and proven ability. Genuinely friendly environment. Ref: T/013147.

CITY — DERIVATIVES
This major City player has developed a new derivatives and capital markets division and now needs to attract fresh enthusiastic 2-3 years PQE lawyers who have good quality experience and a 'feel' for this exciting and varied area of the law. Opportunity and potential with this progressive City leader are excellent. Ref: T/013163.

CITY — BANKING
Two positions exist for non-contentious banking lawyers with 1-5 years PQE, who enjoy the pace and diversity of banking law. You will be enthusiastic, knowledgeable and flexible in approach. You will enjoy working within a team environment where you have an opportunity to succeed and make your mark. Ref: M/011307.

Above is a small representative sample of some of the vacancies we have registered with us from law firms throughout the U.K. For more information on our services telephone us or alternatively write to us at 4 Bloomsbury Place, LONDON WC1A 2QA; 137 Newhall Street, BIRMINGHAM B3 1SF; 22 Deansgate, MANCHESTER M3 1PH; 31-33 Corn Street, BRISTOL BS1 1HT; or 32 Sovereign Street, LEEDS LS1 4BJ. All enquiries will be treated in strictest confidence. We do not and never have sent out candidates' C.V.'s without their permission. Only Charles Fellowes are able to keep a Watching Brief® on your career.

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PRIVATE PRACTICE - LONDON

Corporate Tax
One of the most powerful American law firms, with an increasingly important presence in London, seeks first-class tax assistants admitted c. 2-8 years.
Ref: 26096

Insolvency - Non-contentious
Leading City practice offers position with outstanding prospects for top-class non-contentious insolvency specialist qualified approximately 3 - 6 years.
Ref: 3790

Information Technology
Major City firm, with superb client-base and unrivalled reputation for quality of its management, seeks non-contentious I.T. assistants, both junior and senior.
Ref: 23496

Licensing Solicitor
This progressive West End firm seeks a licensing lawyer at Senior Assistant or Partner level. Excellent opportunity for a commercially-minded individual.
Ref: 25098

EC/Competition Assistant
Leading City firm requires an EC/Competition solicitor with at least 3 years' post-qualification experience: strong personality sought for a challenging role.
Ref: 28840

Pensions Assistants
Medium-sized City practice needs pensions assistants from newly - to 4-years-qualified with relevant experience. Chance to develop within expanding department.
Ref: 28390

To discuss these opportunities in total confidence please contact Philip Boynton LLB LLM or Matthew Root LLB. Alternatively, send your CV to either of them at the address opposite:

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LAW

● LIBEL REFORM 37
● LAW REPORT 39

As the mad cow crisis continues, **David Conn**, below, and **Edward Fennell** report on possible legal actions

Who cares for the victims?

Nothing has yet been done by the Government to make contact with the families of the ten who died from Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, despite the explosion of media coverage after the revelation that BSE is the most likely explanation for those deaths.

The Government's scientific advisers have said there could be an "epidemic" of CJD, but a spokesman for the Department of Health, asked what the Government was doing for the families of the victims, replied succinctly: "Nothing." The Government, he said, was currently "not considering any help at all" for the victims, whether educational or emotional; far less an offer of financial compensation. "Why should there be?" the official said. "The Government is not responsible for these new cases."

David Churchill disagrees. His son Stephen died from CJD last May. "No compensation is possible in our case," Mr Churchill says. "Other families may have lost a breadwinner; we did not. We lost a boy with his whole life ahead of him. How do you compensate for that? But we would certainly consider joining a class action to determine who is to blame for Stephen's death. We understand there may have been rogue abattoirs or farmers, but we do not blame those industries generally. They, like us, were acting on government advice. Our current feeling, we are prepared to state, is that the Government was responsible for our son's death."

As yet, there have been no calls by politicians for families to be spared the ordeal of a legal battle with the Government. Oliver Thorold, a barrister experienced in personal injury and medical negligence cases, is "amazed" that no opposition party has raised this question. He draws parallels with two similar incidents of fatal disease: haemophiliacs infected with Aids from contaminated blood products and CJD victims claiming that they contracted the disease from contaminated human growth hormones (HGH).

The HGH cases, known as "the CJD litigation", are being contested by the Government. According to the Department of Health official, no offer has been made to compensate the families of 17 victims, and the cases will be defended "to the hilt". The trial, expected to last six weeks, is due to start on April 16. The case of the haemophiliacs was settled in 1990 after two years of litigation.

Mr Thorold argues that the victims' families should not be subjected to an antagonistic legal battle but should be compensated now for their bereavement. For the present, however, the Department of Health appears to be unmoved.

The victims' families, having had no offer from the Government, have been forced to consider litigation. It is known that solicitors have already been instructed to consider suing the Government for negligence over its handling of the BSE disaster.

David Body, of Irwin Mitchell, a Sheffield firm, who is one of two co-ordinating solicitors in the HGH litigation, sees similarities in the approach a court would take to the BSE question. "First," he says, "there is the question of knowledge. The court will look at what the government departments can be imputed to have known about the learning regarding spongiform encephalopathy. Secondly, it will consider the Government's role as a regulatory body; in the case of BSE, of the food industry."

The Government's record could be vulnerable in both areas. It continues to argue there was "no evidence" that degenerative disease could be transmitted from cows to human beings. But any claimant would refer to scientifically known risks which, they would argue, should have been appreciated earlier. Allegations of regulatory failure would begin in 1980, with the failure of the Thatcher Government to follow through a 1978 Labour Government consultation paper that called for compulsory licensing of carcass and offal-rendering plants. Also called into evidence would be the failure to implement the conclusions of the Tyrell committee, which in June 1989 recommended the monitoring of brains of cattle sent to slaughter.

The only certain thing is that if a negligence action were brought, it would be very long, involve huge documentation and transfer large amounts of public money to lawyers. Mr Body thinks that the case of government negligence may well be arguable, but he believes strongly that it should not be allowed to go ahead. He explains: "The same mistake should not be made as was made in the HGH cases. An independent inquiry should be carried out straight away, to find out how we have reached this state and what our response should be.

"This is extremely important. In the HGH cases, no inquiry was carried out and litigation has been the only option open to the families to find out the truth of how the victims died."

Mr Thorold agrees, saying that the families should be spared the "legal sword dance" of suing the Government to get at the truth. He contrasts the forsaking of the victims with the Government's relationship with farmers. "If there is a cull of cattle," he says, "the farmers are likely to be given millions of pounds in compensation. This will contrast horribly with the stark plight of the victims, battling against government denials of liability."

STUART CLARKE

David and Dot Churchill "lost a boy with his whole life ahead of him" when CJD took their son Stephen

Life's work up in flames

Last week William Neville, the head of the agricultural unit at Burges Salmon in Bristol, had the first glimpse of what the weeks ahead would hold. Farmers — old clients of the firm — were phoning up in tears for advice as they viewed the prospect of their life's work going up in flames.

Now Britain's agricultural lawyers are gearing up for the fight of their lives. For Burges Salmon, it is particularly important. With a core of 40 agricultural specialists, it is the UK's largest agricultural practice. And, along with their colleagues elsewhere in the firm and as part of the Norton Rose MS group, the firm has assembled a BSE action squad that has moved to the first stage of the group-wide "disaster" plan.

Mr Neville says: "I pray that we don't have to put it into action, but if we do, it will be a super-effective way of dealing with the crisis."

While the fate of the farmers and the national herd is centre-stage, lawyers such as Mr Neville are also seeing the impact of BSE on hauliers, abattoirs, auctioneers and food companies. Already potential legal disputes are surfacing: over, for example, contractual arrangements. What will happen when the food companies turn down contracted-for beef supplies? And what about the hauliers who have no beasts to take to market? Or the insurance policies based on size of turnover where business has slumped by 70 per cent in a fortnight?

Agricultural lawyers are totting up a long list of possible actions and planning their future strategies. But Mr Neville advises: "We must wait to see how the Government and the European Commission decide to handle it."

The compensation issue is at the forefront of most farmers' minds. Nigel Davis, who heads the agricultural practice at Shakespeares in Birmingham, could scarcely be closer to the crisis. Commuting daily from Ashbourne in Derbyshire, where he has a herd of Aberdeen Angus, he sees things from both sides. "Being in the middle of it," he says, "helps to focus the mind on the finer detail."

He believes that a rumpus is likely to follow any proposal for a flat-rate compensation. He says: "There can be large differentials in the value of cattle, depending on whether or not they are pedigree. I have been discussing the matter with other farmers and will write to the Minister of Agriculture to put the point because no one else seems to have noticed it so far."

Mr Davis is a member of Agrilaw, a group of specialist agricultural firms. Jeannette Dennis of Taylor Vinter in Cambridge, like Mr Davis also a part-time farmer, is a fellow member. "As well as being a lawyer," she says, "I run a pig farm. Ironically, I have seen the price of pork rise as the BSE scare has mounted."

While talking to her clients, Miss Dennis has noticed that there is already a BSE effect on the trade in milk quotas. Normally at this time of year, there is a brisk trade between those farmers who have quota to spare and those who need more. This year, however, the market is quiet as the industry waits to see just how far any proposed cull of the national beef and dairy herd might go.

More immediately, however, Miss Dennis knows of farmers who are just a short way from bankruptcy. Once the dust settles, the victims will be looking for redress. The question is, whom should they sue. The Government, Brussels, the feed manufacturers?

Henry Abraham, of the Kent firm of Brachers, points out that the courts are reluctant to countenance a claim against the Government for negligence, although an argument could be made that it did not act decisively enough and thereby allowed hysteria to develop.

He says: "This is going to set a precedent for the future because it is a case of such enormous magnitude."

Meanwhile, Sally Graham, of the agricultural department at Mills & Reeve, a Norwich firm, comments: "Though we are getting on with other work, BSE is hanging over everything we do. We are sitting here just waiting for the storm to burst overhead."

School for illiterate lawyers

LAWYERS are not known for their good, clear English. But they are keen to go back to school to put things right. At the City law firm Cameron Markby Hewitt yesterday, partners were rushing to sign up for a new training programme which, their marketing department said, would start with a "fundamental tutorial on grammar and handwriting".

An e-mail message explained to them that the firm was having to spend much money on hiring journalists to rewrite articles for marketing purposes and time was being wasted trying to decipher "illegible handwriting".

It went on: "We have taken advice from one of our clients, SBC Warburg, that graphology, the study of handwriting, has become recognised as a bona fide science — some clients are even assessing personality traits from signatures." The course would cover split infinitives, practical use of gerunds, uses of Latin tags and writing for American and other foreign audiences.

Unfortunately, the would-be students had failed to notice yesterday's date.

Tony Reiss, the marketing director, said: "We invited partners to attend first, as the worst offenders ... and several had signed up by lunchtime. Perhaps we should offer the course after all."

Deadly serious

THE OSCAR for *Dead Man Walking* has put the debate over capital punishment back on the agenda. So *Capital Punishment* (Waterside Press £32 plus £1.50 p&p) could not be more timely.

The book is co-edited by Peter Hodgkinson, director of the Centre for Capital Punishment Studies at Westminister University, and the series editor, Andrew Rutherford, a criminologist. It includes chapters by leading authorities on the death penalty in several countries, as well as material on the history of the penalty and the role of doctors in its administration.

Meanwhile, the spirit of retribution lives on in Texas. The state has carried out 104 executions, the largest number in America, and has just changed its rules to allow a victim's relatives to watch.

As a result, the parents and grandparents of a brother and sister who were shot during an armed robbery of a pawn shop in Houston will see the perpetrator's death by injection.

● *Michael Beloff, QC, has been appointed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, which has been set up to deal with appeals over disputes arising from the Atlanta Olympics. He will be the only English representative on the panel of 12 lawyers making up the court's ad hoc division.*

First meeting

A GROUP for Arab lawyers holds its inaugural meeting today. The Association of Arab Lawyers already has 120 members. Asmaa al-Adhamy, one of its founders and a trainee solicitor with Allen & Overy, says the society was set up to help Arab lawyers in the UK to network and to provide a focus for clients seeking specialist services. "We're not a political group," she says. "Our aim is to forge links with lawyers in the Middle East and across the profession."

The meeting, at the Law Society, starts at 6.30pm.

Sitting targets

THE past year has been ground-breaking for the Law Society. The latest of a series of firsts for the society must be the appearance of an advertisement in the *Law Society Gazette* calling on supporters of the president, Martin Mears, to challenge his opponents on the council whose seats come up for re-election this summer.

The advertisement, placed by Mr Mears's own group of supporters on the council, appears alongside the president's regular column in which he expresses the hope that supporters of his reform programme will win all 15 of the seats up for grabs.

Great lines

NICK Towle, of the City firm Watson Farley & Williams, is the first English lawyer to have flown into Bosnia since the peace agreement. His mission, as part of a team of consultants financed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, is to get the citizens talking to each other by rebuilding the telecommunications system.

Flown in on an Ifor troop plane and armed only with his UN pass, Mr Towle was heartened by what he found.

"Though the legacy of damage and distrust is huge," he says, "all the people we met were determined to rebuild their institutions and their lives as quickly as possible."

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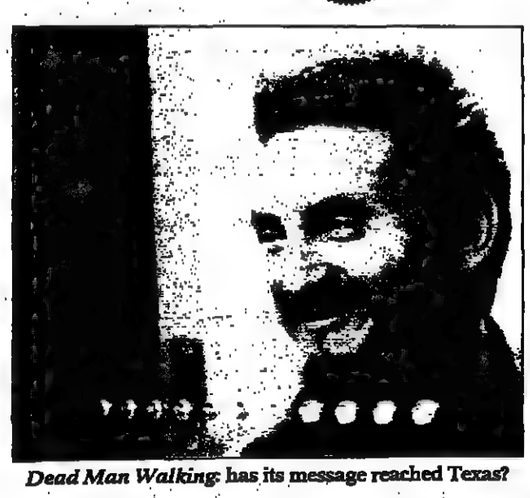

Dead Man Walking: has its message reached Texas?

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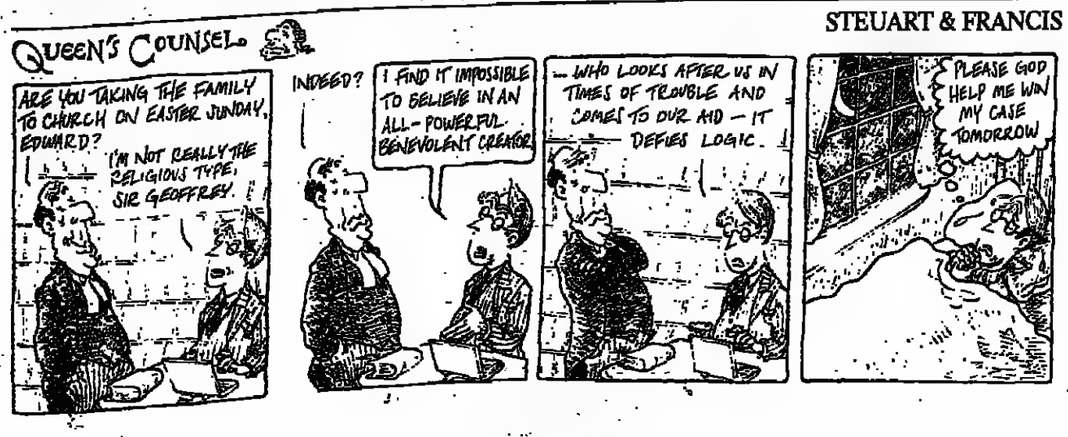

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هكذا من الأصل

JAMES MORGAN

Elton John's £500,000 libel win against the *Sunday Mirror* was cut to £75,000

Realism in the libel lottery

Frances Gibb reports on the latest move to reform procedures for seeking damages

All litigation is a lottery, say lawyers. But libel is the biggest lottery of them all. The stakes are high: a reputation weighed against huge legal costs (for which there is no legal aid), coupled with uncertain damages which — exceptionally in the civil courts — are awarded by a jury.

Today peers start to debate reforms intended to simplify the way in which courts tackle libel so that more people can obtain a remedy for a slur on their reputation. The Defamation Bill, which starts its committee stage in the House of Lords, will provide a new fast-track procedure for libel claims of up to £10,000. The idea is that the simpler libel claims can be disposed of quickly and cheaply, with judges assessing damages and dismissing any weak claims.

The Bill, based on a reforms produced first by Lord Hoffmann, the law lord, and then by Lord Justice Neill, the Court of Appeal judge, also offers something for the newspapers on the receiving end of suits. It creates a new "offer of amends" defence for newspapers that did not intend to defame and are willing to pay damages assessed by a judge and to publish an appropriate correction and apology.

The aim is to get cases before a judge more quickly and to reduce the number going before juries in long, vastly expensive trials. Concerns about the length, complexity and cost of libel trials has been fuelled in recent years by a few high-profile cases that resulted in huge payouts to plaintiffs.

But will the new Bill achieve its aims? Lawyers are claiming that it will do little, in reality, to open the libel courts to plaintiffs without means. The measures, they say, could even backfire and result in higher costs and lower awards.

Sarah Webb, defamation partner with Russell Jones & Walker, predicts that it will tilt the present balance of power more towards the media through the lowering of awards.

She says: "Coupled with the recent change in the law after the 1995 Elton John case [in which the Court of Appeal laid down guidelines to bring awards in line with personal injury cases], the Bill will diminish libel awards to such an extent that the media will be unfettered in what they publish by the risk of a high award of damages."

Personal injury awards are at a depresssed level, she points out. "Newspapers will be able to calculate in advance what a defamatory story will cost and decide whether it is worth publishing it. The cost of a half-page advertisement in *The Sun*, for example, is about £20,000, so damages of £5,000 to £20,000, which will be the norm in all but the most serious libel cases, will be a low price to pay for newspapers whose profits come in millions."

Andrew Stephenson, of Peter Carter-Ruck & Partners, also questions whether it will improve people's access to libel courts. The summary hearings before a judge will still depend on resolving conflicts of evidence and costs could mount up, he argues.

Furthermore, there will be scope for lawyers to argue over whether summary damages are appropriate; and about what form the correction and apology should take, which "trespasses into the traditional provinces of editorial responsibility".

He adds: "From the point of view of plaintiffs, it is doubtful whether the provisions add anything other than to introduce a ceiling on damages of £10,000." Under the Bill, plaintiffs will have to give up their right to jury trial if they opt for the new fast-track procedure. So if they fail in the fast track, he says, they would "be stuck".

Everyone agrees: the law needs changing

This summary procedure will further remove one of the few checks and balances that exists to keep the media in place, according to Mrs Webb. "It is the judges who decide whether a case is suitable for summary judgment procedure," she says, "but it is unclear what evidence will be before them when they take that decision or, more important, when they decide the case under this procedure."

Judges will be under pressure, she believes, to decide cases in the defendant's (publisher's) favour. Defendants will inevitably try to diminish the seriousness of a libel and to do everything within their power to underplay the impact of publication so as to make it suitable for summary procedure.

The concerns are, however, not all one way. Lawyers also point out that the measures have problems also for publishers, putting them in the "nightmare" scenario in which they are liable for damages when they unintentionally defame. Peter Carter-Ruck, the leading libel lawyer, points out that the new "offer of amends" makes newspapers liable for compensation where they are not now. At present in such cases — where, perhaps, someone of the same name is innocently libelled — publishers can offer an apology and pay costs only. But the new offer of amends provides for them to pay compensation in such circumstances.

He accepts that the reforms will "remove some unfairness to litigants" — both plaintiffs and defendants. But they fail to go far enough. Several pressing defects are left unremedied, such as the lack of legal aid. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, he says, could consider extending this to those using the summary procedure.

There is consensus on one thing, however: that the present law needs reform. The Lord Chancellor's minister, Jonathan Evans, MP, told the Commons that libel costs were "disproportionately high" and often exceeded the damages won, as with Elton John. Victories can also be pyrrhic.

Lord Aldington, who won a record £1.5 million damages, has seen only a fraction of his award because the defendants have no cash. In many ways, the present libel proposals foreshadow some of the reforms being floated by Lord Woolf in his civil justice inquiry. So how the new libel laws work — or otherwise — may provide a telling glimpse of the future.

Set up as a cheap and speedy forum for patent disputes, the Patents County Court seems to have lost its way

Great idea, but needs work

The Patents County Court is in need of reform, according to senior judges, *Frances Gibb writes*. The court came under fire recently in the case of the £2.7 million battle against Sony by a German who claimed to have invented the personal stereo. The judges threw his case out. But they took the opportunity to castigate the inefficient and costly procedures of the Patents County Court.

Their comments will be widely backed by the legal profession. The court has seen a dramatic fall in its workload since being set up under Margaret Thatcher's Government in 1990 as a speedy and cheap forum for patent disputes.

Instead, however, lawyers are choosing to take their clients' disputes to the High Court. The number of new cases lodged in the Patents County Court is now at a record low level: in 1995, only 28 actions were started there, compared with 53 in 1994, 81 in 1993 and 94 in 1992, the high point.

Lawyers who use the court regularly have consistently accused it of failing to achieve its aims. Some of their fire has been directed specifically at the court's judge, Peter Ford. He, however, has strongly defended his record.

Trevor Cook, an intellectual-property lawyer with Bird & Bird, says: "The figures on the falling workload speak for themselves. But to some extent they also reflect the vastly improved service offered by the Patents Court in the High Court, which is now providing an excellent service."

The Court of Appeal judges' criticisms echo views that some lawyers have been reluctant to air publicly. Lord Justice Neill described what had happened as "lamentable". The patent in the Sony dispute had two-and-a-half pages of written description which could be understood "without any scientific help".

Despite that, he said that the "parties' pleaded cases were set out in 261 pages with extensive annexes. There were nearly eight days of hearings about interlocutory disputes and the trial lasted nearly four weeks."

Every point was pursued, whether material or not, he added. "Whether the fault for these lamentable events is that of the procedure adopted or something else is not for me to decide. However, some alteration is necessary if the purposes of the Patents County Court are to be achieved."

Lord Justice Hobhouse added that the procedure was "disproportionate" to the issues to be tried. There was over-elaboration of the pre-trial procedures and a failure to limit the trials' scope in preparatory stages, resulting in "inefficiency, delay and excessive cost".

David Jerrard, a partner with Baker & McKenzie, which acted for Sony in the case, says: "At the end of the trial in the Patents County Court, the total costs were some £2.2 million. The court was meant to be a cheap and speedy way to resolve disputes and Sony did everything it could to simplify the issues but they remained complex."

Christopher Tootle, head of Herbert Smith's intellectual-property group, said the setting-up of the court had been a good idea. But he accepted that it could now be reformed. "The court should concentrate on cases which can be tried in a day or two."

● *The Patents County Court is launching two pilot schemes for resolving disputes by arbitration and mediation.*

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Court of Appeal

Law Report April 2 1996

Making more than one claim for asylum

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Onibiyo

Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Swinton Thomas

[Judgment March 28]

A person might during a single uninterrupted stay in the United Kingdom make more than one claim for asylum within the meaning of section 1 of the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993.

However, where a claim had been refused and the claimant had exhausted his rights of appeal, a fresh claim was only constituted if, as compared with the earlier claim, it was sufficiently different to admit of a realistic prospect that a favourable view could be taken of it, despite the unfavourable conclusion reached on the earlier claim.

The Court of Appeal so held, dismissing an appeal by the applicant, Mr Ademola Onibiyo, from Mr Justice Latham who had refused his application for judicial review of decisions of the Secretary of State for the Home Department (i) refusing to issue a formal notice of refusal of asylum; (ii) refusing to refer fresh material back to the immigration appellate authorities under section 21 of the Immigration Act 1971 and (iii) directing the applicant's removal from the United Kingdom.

On March 25, 1995 an order signed for the applicant, who was an overstayer from Nigeria, to be deported was served on him at the police station where he was detained. On March 26, he applied for asylum on the ground that, as a member of the Yoruba tribe which attracted the hatred and persecution of the government in Nigeria, he feared that his life would be in danger if he were returned there.

In interview he made it plain that his own claim for asylum was based on the political activities of his father, who also claimed asylum. Both his and his father's claims were rejected and their appeals dismissed.

On October 26, 1995 his father was deported to Nigeria and on the evidence nothing further had been heard or seen of him after his arrival there.

On November 30, the applicant gave notice of a fresh application for asylum on grounds, elaborated by letter of December 4 and asserted to be new, that he had a well founded fear of being persecuted "for reasons of membership of a particular social group and political opinion" and that he was a supporter of and associated with the opposition movement in Nigeria.

The letter was supported by material relating to the human rights situation in Nigeria and to recent events including the executions of certain people there.

The secretary of state concluded that the applicant's representations did not constitute a fresh claim, and that he still relied on his father's situation and the political climate in Nigeria as the basis of his application.

Treating the letter as further information to the original claim the secretary of state concluded that there had not been any material change in circumstances since his previous refusal. He declined to accept that that conclusion constituted a fresh decision giving the applicant an avenue of appeal.

Mr Nicholas Blake, QC and Mr Duran Seddon for the applicant; Mr Neil Garnham for the Home Secretary.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS referred to the articles 1A and 33 of the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol and to the national measures giving effect to those instruments, in particular, to sections 1, 2, 6, 8 of and Schedule 2 to the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993; to the Asylum Appeals (Procedure) Rules (SI 1993 No 1661); the Immigration Appeals (Procedure) Rules (SI 1984 No 2041) and the *Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules* (1994, HC 395).

On the first issue: whether as a matter of law a person might during a single uninterrupted stay in the United Kingdom make more than one "claim for asylum" as defined by section 1 of the 1993 Act, his Lordship preferred the applicant's argument that after dismissal of a first claim, a fresh claim could be made.

The United Kingdom's obligation under the Convention was not to return a refugee, as defined, to a country where his life or freedom would be threatened for any reason specified in the Convention. That obligation remained binding until the moment of return.

A refugee, as defined, had a right not to be returned to such a country and a further right not to be returned pending a decision whether he was a refugee or not.

It would undermine the beneficial object of the Convention and the measures giving effect to it if the making of an unsuccessful application for asylum were to be treated as modifying the United Kingdom's obligation or depriving a person of the right to make a fresh claim for asylum.

Nothing in the Convention or in the measures his Lordship had summarised supported the secretary of state's contrary construction which the judge had accepted. He accordingly differed from the judge on the first issue.

Turning to the question of what constituted a fresh claim, his Lordship agreed with the propositions accepted by the applicant: 1 That a fresh claim could not be made by advancing an obviously untenable claim, or by repeating, even with elaboration or addition, a claim already made, or by relying on evidence available but not advanced on the earlier claim: 2 That there had to be a significant change from the claim as previously presented, such as might reasonably lead a special adjudicator to take a different view; 3 That if the fresh claim depended on new evidence, it had to satisfy tests, analogous to *Ladd v Marshall* ([1954] 1 WLR 1489), of previous unavailability, significance and credibility.

He also agreed with Lord Justice Stuart-Smith in *Manvinder Singh v Secretary of State for the Home Department* (unreported, December 8, 1995) that it was necessary to analyse the essential ingredients of a claim to asylum and to see whether any of those ingredients had changed; that where the applicant could assert that one or more were different, then it could be said to be a fresh claim.

Lord Justice Stuart-Smith had identified such ingredients as (i) the applicant had a well founded fear of persecution, (ii) in relation to the country whence he came, (iii) the authorities of the state, or a group tolerated by them were the source of persecution or the authorities refused or could not offer effective protection, (iv) the persecution was for a Convention reason.

His Lordship said that the acid test had always to be whether, comparing the new claim with that earlier rejected and excluding material on which the claimant could reasonably have been expected to rely in the earlier claim, the new claim was sufficiently different from the earlier claim to admit of a realistic prospect that a favourable view could be taken of the new claim despite the unfavourable conclusion reached on the earlier claim.

On the question who was to decide whether a claim was fresh or not, it was plain from rule 328 of HC 395 that all asylum applications would be determined by the secretary of state in the first instance.

Turning to the procedural consequences, his Lordship said that if the secretary of state recognised a fresh claim as a "claim for asylum" but none the less decided that asylum should not be granted, there was no reason why the same consequences should not follow as on refusal of an initial claim.

The disappointed claimant could pursue his right of appeal under section 8 of the 1993 Act.

The problematical situation was where, as here, the secretary of state did not recognise a claim as a fresh "claim for asylum" and so declined to make any decision or to take or omit to take action which would trigger a right of appeal under section 8 of the 1993 Act.

Both parties accepted that the asylum-seeker's redress was only by resort to the court. The applicant argued that whether or not a fresh claim had been made was a matter of precedent fact to be decided in case of dispute by the court.

The secretary of state argued that the question was one for him, and his decision, while not immune from challenge, could only be challenged on the ground of irrationality.

The answer was not determinative of the present appeal, since on either approach, for reasons which his Lordship set out in detail, the appeal would fail, but since the issue was of importance and of considerable difficulty, he would proffer only a tentative answer.

The role of the court in the immigration field varied depending on the legislative and administrative context. Where an exercise of administrative power was dependent on the establishment of an objective precedent fact the court would, if asked to do so in case of dispute, itself rule whether such fact was established to the requisite standard: see, for example, *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Khawaja* ([1984] AC 74).

By contrast the decision whether an asylum-seeker was a refugee was a question to be determined by the secretary of state and the immigration appellate authorities whose determinations were susceptible to challenge only on *Wednesbury* principles ([1948] 1 KB 223): see *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Bugdaycay* ([1987] AC 514).

His Lordship was of the opinion, although with some misgivings, that the judgment whether a fresh "claim for asylum" had been made should be assimilated with the latter and not the former class of judgment.

If the test propounded on the first issue was correct, the answer to the question whether a fresh claim had been made would depend not on the finding of any objective fact, nor even on a literal comparison of the earlier and later claim, but on an exercise of judgment, and that was a field in which the initial judgments were clearly entrusted to the secretary of state.

He would accordingly incline to accept the secretary of state's argument on the point, while observing that decisions reached by him were susceptible to challenge on any *Wednesbury* ground of which irrationality was only one.

He would dismiss the appeal.

Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Swinton Thomas agreed.

Solicitors: Fisher Meredith, Stockwell; Treasury Solicitor.

Disclosed documents were used in similar action

Miller and Another v Scorey and Others

Before Mr Justice Rimer

[Judgment March 14]

The implied undertaking given by a party to an action not to use documents disclosed on discovery in that action for any purpose except that action did not justify the use of the documents in another action against similar defendants and on closely related causes of action. Breach of an undertaking to the court constituted a contempt of court and an abuse of its process irrespective of the contemnor's intentions.

Mr Justice Rimer so held in the Chancery Division on, inter alia, a summons issued by the third defendant, Merchant Investors Assurance Co Ltd (MIA), to strike out an action commenced in 1995 by Roger George Miller and KC Independent Trustees Ltd, the present trustees of Rockwoods Holdings plc Group Pensions Scheme, against Michael George Scorey and others, the original trustees, as having been prosecuted in circumstances which constituted a contempt of court and an abuse of its process.

Mr James Clifford for MIA; Miss Josephine Hayes for the present trustees.

MR JUSTICE RIMER said that in 1993 the present trustees of the pension scheme commenced an action against the original trustees and others claiming, inter alia, an account of profits, alleged to be about £142,200, made as commission on an investment contract which they had wrongfully appropriated to themselves in September 1989.

In July 1995, in the course of discovery in the 1993 action, MIA disclosed documents which suggested to the plaintiff trustees that there was a strong case that MIA had paid to Mr Scorey and some other original trustees £225,000 effectively as bribes.

On the basis of that information the plaintiff trustees issued a new writ on September 4, 1995 seeking to recover the £225,000. The 1995 action could not and would not have been launched at all but for the information discovered in the 1993 action.

MIA now sought to strike out the 1995 action on the ground that it was started in breach of the implied undertaking given by the trustees not to use the documents disclosed in the 1993 action except for the purpose of the action in which they were disclosed.

Miss Hayes accepted that her client became subject to an implied undertaking not to use the documents for any ulterior or collateral purpose and that, if they were minded to use them for some such purpose they would first have to obtain from the court an appropriate relaxation of their undertaking as was done in *Sybron Corporation v Barclays Bank plc* ([1985] Ch 299, 320H-321A).

She submitted, however, that the use of the documents for the purposes of the 1995 action involved no breach of the undertaking: that if the 1993 action had been amended to include the bribery claims, the disclosed documents could have been used for the purposes of the new claim without the need to obtain leave: that electing instead to pursue the bribery claims by the 1995 action was a matter of form rather than substance and that it made no sense that the use of the documents for such action could involve a breach of the undertaking whereas none would be involved by their use for a substantially identical purpose in the 1993 action.

His Lordship saw the force of Miss Hayes's general proposition on the particular facts but considered that it was not open for him to accept it. The authorities all spoke with one voice to the effect that the undertaking was that the disclosed documents would not be used otherwise than for the action in which they were disclosed.

Lord Oliver of Aylmerton had said in *Crest Homes plc v Marks* ([1987] 1 AC 829, 853-854) that "to use a document obtained on discovery in one action as the foundation for a claim in a different and wholly unrelated proceeding would be a clear breach of the implied undertaking". That remark, when read in context, did not justify the use of documents in an action against certain of the same defendants and for a closely related, albeit different, cause of action.

However, in a proper case, the court would give leave to use discovered documents in a separate action as in the *Sybron* case. Had the trustees applied to the court last August or in early September for such leave they would probably have obtained it.

But the trustees did not do so. Therefore the prosecution of the 1995 action without leave had involved a contempt of court (see *Home Office v Harman* ([1983] 1 AC 280)) and in consequence amounted to an abuse of the process of the court.

Miss Hayes argued that her clients had committed no such contempt because any breach of the undertaking was committed innocently and in ignorance of the fact that it involved a breach. She relied on sections 1 and 2 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981.

His Lordship disagreed. Sections 1 and 2 had nothing to do with the criteria which had to be satisfied before proof of a contempt in the nature of an alleged breach of an undertaking to the court was established. Those sections were concerned with alleged contempt of a different kind.

The question of whether a contempt in the nature of a breach of an undertaking to the court had been committed involved an essentially objective test requiring the determination of whether or not the alleged contemnor had acted in a manner constituting a breach. If he had, then a contempt would be established, regardless of whether or not he had acted contumaciously or with the direct intention of breaking his undertaking, although whether any, and if so what, punishment or other consequences ought to be imposed on him would or might be materially dependent on considerations of that sort.

Mr Clifford sought to strike out the 1995 action for the contempt which amounted to an abuse of process and submitted that the court had no jurisdiction to grant the trustees a retrospective leave to use the offending documents so as to absolve them of their shortcomings to date, alternatively if there were such jurisdiction it should not be exercised.

His Lordship did not find it necessary to decide whether he had a jurisdiction to grant leave retrospectively. It might be that the court did have some such jurisdiction but, if so, the circumstances in which it would be proper to exercise it would be rare.

However, the court could now accede to the trustees' request for leave to use the discovered documents for the purposes of a separate action raising the same claims as the 1995 action. There would, therefore, be much to be said for declining to strike out the 1995 action and for giving leave to the trustees to make use of the documents for its further prosecution.

Such an order would, no doubt, amount to a de facto validation of what had happened to date although the court could perhaps reflect its disapproval of that by making appropriate costs orders.

The significance of the choice on the facts was that as the original defaults complained of took place in September 1989, if the trustees were compelled to issue new proceedings MIA would be able to raise a defence under the Limitation Act 1980 whereas if the 1995 action was allowed to remain it could not.

In his Lordship's judgment that consideration pointed to the conclusion that he ought to strike the 1995 action out. To allow the trustees to continue to prosecute that action, and in consequence to deny MIA the opportunity of raising a limitation defence would be to allow the trustees to take unfair advantage of their own wrong.

His Lordship did not consider that the court ought to subscribe to that and accordingly made an order that the writ and statement of claim in the 1995 action be struck out as against MIA and Mr Scorey.

Solicitors: Beachcroft Stanleys; Blake Lapthorn for Clifton Ingram, Wokingham.

THE TIMES

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Threat at a distance

Director of Public Prosecutions v Mills

Before Lord Justice Otton and Mr Justice Jowitt

[Judgment March 8]

Where a person did or threatened an act which intimidated another person so as to commit an offence under section 51(1) of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 it was not necessary for both offender and victim to be physically present at the time.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when allowing a prosecution appeal by way of case stated from Barking Justices who on October 18, 1995 found that there was no case to answer because threats made over the telephone did not fall within section 51(1).

Mr John McGuinness for the prosecution; Miss Margaret Barnes for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE JOWITT said that section 51(1) embraced acts done, and 51(2) acts done or threats made to a victim in the presence of both offender and victim. An act could fall into both those subsections depending on the facts.

The offence also embraced an act or threat set in train by the offender which took effect whether the victim was present or not, for example, letters and telephone calls.

Here the defendant had telephoned the victim who was assisting in a criminal investigation, and during the course of the conversation had made various threats which had been intended to intimidate the victim and thereby pervert the course of justice. There was no difference between a letter and a telephone call where either was sent and received by a victim; both fell within section 51(1).

It was necessary to look at the mischief at which the section was aimed. The manifest purpose of section 51(3) was to enlarge section 51(1) and (2) to include circumstances where an act or threat was indirect in that it was made to a victim via a third person. If the words "... not only where the act is done in the presence of that other..." in section 51(3) could have been read as limiting the preceding subsections, the offending act would have had to have been performed in the presence of the victim from start to finish.

Such an interpretation was incompatible with the wording of section 51(4) which referred to acts against a person's property. Furthermore such an interpretation would have deprived the section of much of its utility.

Lord Justice Otton agreed.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Special Casework Unit; Sternberg Reed, Barking.

Privy Council

Diminished responsibility not part of provocation

Luc v The Queen

Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Steyn, Sir Brian Hutton and Sir Michael Hardie Boys

[Judgment March 26]

eI2Mental infirmity on the part of a defendant which had the effect of reducing his powers of self-control below that to be expected of an ordinary person was not to be attributed to the ordinary person for the purposes of the objective test in provocation.

The Privy Council so held by a majority (Lord Steyn dissenting) when dismissing an appeal by Luc Thiet-thuan from the dismissal by the Court of Appeal of Hong Kong (Vice-President Power, Vice-President Macdougall and Justice of Appeal Mortimer) dated August 26, 1993 of his appeal against his conviction of murder.

Mr Martin Thomas, QC and Miss Charlotte Draycott, of the English and Hong Kong Bars, for the appellant; Mr A. A. Bruce, QC, Senior Assistant Crown Prosecutor, Hong Kong, and Mrs M. P. H. Sin, of the Hong Kong Bar, for the Crown.

LORD GOFF, giving the judgment of the majority, said that the appellant had given evidence at trial that, following a fall in which he was rendered unconscious, he had experienced several episodes of responding irritably to minor provocation in which he felt "the sense of hot flush rising from the abdomen," following which he became unable to keep control and acted explosively.

His evidence had been that this sensation occurred at the time of the attack by him on the deceased which resulted in her death.

The trial judge had held that that evidence was relevant only to his defence of diminished responsibility and so did not refer to it when directing the jury on provocation. In the result the jury convicted the appellant of murder, rejecting both pleas.

Mr Thomas had submitted that an analysis of the relevant authorities, and in particular the New Zealand authorities on the definition of provocation contained in section 169 of the New Zealand Crimes Act 1961, including the analysis of Mr Justice North in *R v McGregor* ([1962] NZLR 1069), adopted by the English Court of Appeal in *R v Newell* ((1980) 71 Cr App R 331), revealed a development of the law which permitted the mental condition of the defendant to be taken into account for the purposes of the objective test in the law of provocation.

Mr Bruce had submitted that to allow juries to take account of the appellant's brain damage and episodic dyscontrol condition would be to undermine the objective test, namely whether the provocation was enough to make a reasonable man do as the defendant did, as interpreted by Lord Diplock in *R v Camplin* ([1978] AC 705).

Section 3 of the Homicide Act 1957, identical to section 4 of the Hong Kong Homicide Ordinance, provided: "Where on a charge of murder there is evidence on which the jury can find that the person charged was provoked ... to lose his self-control, the question whether the provocation was enough to make a reasonable man do as he did shall be left to be determined by the jury..."

In determining that question "the jury shall take into account everything both done and said according to the effect which, in [the jury's] opinion, it would have on a reasonable man."

It was thus not open to the courts either to discard the objective test, or to interpret it in a manner inconsistent with the statute.

In *Camplin* it was held, consistent with the words of the section, that the sex and age of the defendant might be taken into account, so that the hypothetical person was treated as having the power of self-control to be expected, where appropriate, of an ordinary man or woman or an ordinary young person.

But it was an entirely different question whether the mental infirmity of the defendant which impaired his power of self-control should be taken into account: it was difficult to see how it could be consistent with a person having the power of self-control of an ordinary person.

Newell and the subsequent decisions of the Court of Appeal where reliance was placed on *Newell*, in particular *R v Ahluwalia* ([1992] 4 All ER 889), had suggested that certain characteristics of the defendant relating to his or her mental state or personality might as such be taken into account by the jury for the purposes of the objective test.

However, *R v McCarthy* ([1992] 2 NZLR 550) had explained that mental characteristics of the defendant could be taken into account in New Zealand because of the deliberate intention of the New Zealand Parliament to achieve a partial recognition of the defence of diminished responsibility.

Thus the New Zealand case law which had influenced *Newell* no longer provided safe guidance on the interpretation of the English statute and it was necessary to return to *Camplin*.

On the principles there stated, there was no basis upon which mental infirmity on the part of the defendant which had the effect of reducing his powers of self-control below that to be expected of an ordinary person could, as such, be attributed to the ordinary person for the purposes of the objective test in provocation.

Of course, mental infirmity of the defendant, if itself the subject of taunts by the deceased, might be taken into account as going to the gravity of the provocation as applied to the defendant.

But that was a far cry from the appellant's submission that the mental infirmity of the defendant impairing his power of self-control should as such be attributed to the reasonable man for the purposes of the objective test.

To accept the appellant's submission would be to incorporate the concept of diminished responsibility indirectly into the law of provocation. Such a conclusion was most unlikely to have been intended by the legislature which, in a neighbouring section in the same statute, introduced diminished responsibility as a defence of general application in the law of murder.

LORD STEYN, dissenting, said that section 3 of the Homicide Act 1957 was a reforming measure. Its genesis lay in the Royal Commission on Capital Punishment, 1949-1953 (Cmd 8932), which had examined arguments for and against the retention of the objective or reasonable man test and recommended that the objective test be retained.

But it did so on the assumption that the courts in applying the reasonable man test would seek to avoid the injustices which would follow from a rigid and doctrinaire application of the test.

Parliament thus adopted the not unusual course of not trying to solve an intractable problem but leaving it to the courts in the application of the Act to work out sensible and just solutions.

There was nothing in the speeches in *Camplin* to indicate that only youthfulness could qualify as "human infirmity" under the objective requirement. Indeed Lord Simon of Glaisdale made it clear (at p727) that "the entire factual situation, which includes the characteristics of the accused, must be considered".

In context that did not exclude mental abnormality. *Camplin* was perfectly consistent with a sensible interpretation of section 3 in its contextual scene.

The decisions of the Court of Appeal, starting with *Ahluwalia* and culminating in *R v Thornton* (*The Times* December 13, 1995) were a logical extension of the decisions in *Camplin*. But even more important than the promptings of legal logic was the dictates of justice: justice underpinned those decisions.

Solicitors: Edwin Coe; Macfarlanes.

Tax set-off not available

Boote (Inspector of Taxes) v Banco do Brasil SA

Before Mr Justice Blackburne

[Judgment March 8]

For corporation tax purposes an overseas bank carrying on business in the United Kingdom was prohibited by section 50(1) of the Finance Act 1976 from carrying forward for set-off against profits in later periods losses of £9.5 million accruing in 1974 and 1975.

Mr Justice Blackburne so held in the Chancery Division when allowing an appeal by case stated from a determination by Mr T. H. K. Everett, a special commissioner, upholding claims by Banco do Brasil SA to set the losses against its profits in accounting periods ended December 1976 to December 1980.

Mr Christopher McCall, QC, for the Crown; Mr Graham Aaronson, QC and Mr Richard Gillis for the bank.

MR JUSTICE BLACKBURNE said that the losses arose from the bank's right under article XV of the 1946 UK/USA Double Taxation Agreement (SR & O 1946 No 1327, as amended by SI 1966 No 1188) and the decision in *IRC v Commerzbank AG* ([1990] STC 285) to exclude from its profits interest payments received in respect of loans to US corporations.

By section 50(1) of the 1976 Act, interest treated as tax-exempt under double taxation arrangements was not to be excluded from trading income of the banking business so as to give rise to losses to be set off against profits arising on or after April 15, 1976.

The provision was entirely apt to extend to tax-exempt interest received prior to the Act coming into force.

That construction gave to the section an element of retrospectivity in that losses hitherto available for set-off ceased to be so available on or after April 15, 1976.

Any unfairness was to be balanced against Parliament's intention to remedy a state of affairs that it regarded as calling for correction, that is, the creation of losses available for set-off against income through the exclusion of tax-exempt receipts from trading income by persons not resident in the UK but who carried on here one of the businesses specified in section 50(1).

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue; Hammond Suddard.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NO: 261 of 1996
IN THE BATH COUNTY COURT
IN BANKRUPTCY
ROBERT JAMES BRAY
I, Joan Yvonne Venvil, of Carter Becker Winter, Hill House, Highgate Hill, London N19 5UU, HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that I have been duly appointed Trustee in Bankruptcy of the above-named bankrupt.
All persons having in their possession any of the effects or assets of the bankrupt must deliver them up to me and all debts due to the bankrupt must be paid to me.
Creditors who have not yet proved their debts must forward their proofs to me.
Dated 26 day of March 1996.
J Y Venvil
Trustee in Bankruptcy.

No. 001025 of 1996
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF ROPNER INSURANCE SERVICES LIMITED
- and -
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 27th March 1996 confirming the reduction of the share capital of the above-named Company by £457,109 from £2,500,000 to £2,032,891 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 27th March 1996.
DATED this 2nd day of April 1996.
Theodore Goddard
150 Aldersgate Street,
London EC1A 4EJ.
Solicitors
for the above-named Company.

In the Matter of The Insolvency Act 1986 and the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1965
VOLUNTARY SERVICE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS LTD
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 98 of The Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at Sherlock House, 7 Kenrick Place, London, W1H 3FF on 10th April 1996 at 12.00 noon for the purposes provided for in Section 98 et seq.
A list of the names and addresses of the above Company's Creditors can be inspected at the offices of Latham Crossley & Davis, 7 Kenrick Place, London, W1H 3FF, between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.
Dated this 27th March 1996.
SERGE LOURIE, Director.

The Insolvency Act 1986
In the High Court
No 3610 of 1993
In Bankruptcy
ROBERT CHARLES SHAUN TITCHENER-BARRETT of 1 Brunswick Gardens, Kensington Church Street, London. Property and antique dealer lately carrying on business with another as Regill Stamps as antique stamp dealer formerly carrying on business at 63 London Wall, EC2 as a stockbroker.
Notice is hereby given that I intend to declare a dividend. Last day for receiving claims - 24th April 1996.
Dated 27th of March 1996.
S.A. Jackson, Trustee. Begbie Norton & Partners 1 & 2 Raymond Buildings, Gray's Inn, London WC1R 5BZ.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NO: 260 of 1996
IN THE BATH COUNTY COURT
IN BANKRUPTCY
LORRAINE KATHLEEN BRAY
I, Joan Yvonne Venvil, of Carter Becker Winter, Hill House, Highgate Hill, London N19 5UU, HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that I have been duly appointed Trustee in Bankruptcy of the above-named bankrupt.
All persons having in their possession any of the effects or assets of the bankrupt must deliver them up to me and all debts due to the bankrupt must be paid to me.
Creditors who have not yet proved their debts must forward their proofs to me.
Dated 26 day of March 1996.
J Y Venvil
Trustee in Bankruptcy.

PUBLIC NOTICES

DAVIS, DORA DAVIS SPINSTER late of Westminster, London W1 died at Muswell Hill, London N10 on 5 October 1994 (Estate about £5,000)
FRYER, KATE FRYER otherwise KATHERINE FRYER SPINSTER late of Ahofns, West Yorkshire died at Pontefract, West Yorkshire on 26 March 1995 (Estate about £7,000)
GIBBONS nee ROSS, JOAN MARY GIBBONS nee ROSS WIDOW late of Finsbury, London EC1 died at Smithfield, London EC1 on 16 October 1994 (Estate about £7,000)
GILLOTT, THOMAS WILLIAM GILLOTT late of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire died there on 15 October 1994 (Estate about £6,200)
HAILSTONE, ARTHUR DOUGLAS HAILSTONE late of Farnham, Surrey died there on 9 May 1995 (Estate about £10,000)
HAIRE nee WARDER, MILLICENT MARJORIE HAIRE nee WARDER WIDOW late of Southampton died there on 2 July 1995 (Estate about £24,000)
HARRISSON otherwise HARRISON nee CHESHER, IDA THERESA HARRISSON otherwise IDA THERESA HARRISON nee CHESHER WIDOW late of Leigh-On-Sea, Essex died there on 24 August 1994 (Estate about £7,000)
LEE nee OAKES, LIZZIE LEE nee OAKES WIDOW late of Meir, Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire died there on 27 July 1995 (Estate about £16,000)
MALLOM otherwise MALLAM, FRANCES MARY ELIZABETH MALLOM otherwise FRANCES MARY ELIZABETH MALLAM SPINSTER late of Hayes, Middlesex died at Uxbridge, Middlesex on 13 February 1995 (Estate about £70,000)
NEWBOULD, WILLIAM SYDNEY NEWBOULD late of Birkenhead, Wirral died at Bebington, Wirral on 22 September 1995 (Estate about £35,000)
OPARZYSTY otherwise TOLAND, WLADYSLAW OPARZYSTY otherwise THOMAS TOLAND late of Westminster, London W2 died there on 28 February 1993 (Estate about £60,000)
PIKE formerly PEACOCK, IRENE MAY PIKE formerly IRENE MAY PEACOCK SPINSTER late of Newbury, Berkshire died at Basingstoke, Hampshire on 4 January 1996 (Estate about £48,000)
PRENTICE, ALFRED EDWARD PRENTICE late of Wolverhampton, West Midlands died there on 27 June 1995 (Estate about £12,000)
SIMONS otherwise SIMON, MICHAEL JOHN SIMONS otherwise MICHAEL JOHN SIMON late of Hindhead, Surrey died there on 15 November 1995 (Estate about £50,000)
SPERRING nee COOPER, SYBIL EVELYN SPERRING nee COOPER WIDOW late of Portsmouth, Hampshire died there on 24 September 1993 (Estate about £70,000)
STRINGER, HENRY GEORGE STRINGER late of Balham, London SW12 died at Tooting, London SW17 on 6 December 1995 (Estate about £30,000)
TAYLOR, ELSIE TAYLOR SPINSTER late of Cosforth, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne died there on 29 December 1995 (Estate about £100,000)
WARD, ELSIE MAY WARD SPINSTER late of Westminster, London W1 died at Paddington, London W2 on 26 February 1996 (Estate about £860,000)
WEBB, GEORGE DOUGLAS COATCHER WEBB late of Whitstable, Kent died at Canterbury, Kent on 12 May 1995 (Estate about £90,000)
The kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (BV), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF MEETING
NOTICE IS HEREBY given that the One Hundred and Seventieth Annual General Meeting of the Members of Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society will be held in the principal office, Amicable House, 150 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5NQ, on Tuesday, 23rd April 1996, at 4.00 pm.
By Order of the Directors
J. C. Mitchell, Secretary
6th March 1996
Scottish Amicable

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: Charity consisting of the endowments of Guy's Hospital, transferred to the Board of Governors of Guy's Hospital by virtue of Section 7(1) of the National Health Service Act 1946 Scheme
Reference: 251983
The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this charity. A copy can be seen for the next month at The Special Trustees Office, 1st Floor, Henrietta Raphael House, Guy's Hospital, St Thomas Street, London, or a copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to 2nd Floor, 20 Kings Parade, Queens Dock, Liverpool L3 4DQ, quoting the reference above.

Charity: The Marine Society - Greater London
Scheme varying existing trusts
Reference: AS/313013/7084/LD
The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at THE MARINE SOCIETY, 202 LAMBETH ROAD, LONDON SE1 7JW, or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commissioners, St Albans House, 57-60 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX quoting the above reference. Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charities (1) Save the Victory Fund
(2) The Macpherson Collection Endowment Fund
Scheme including the appointment of trustee
Reference: TC-9378-CDLdn
The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for these charities. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at Messrs Bates Wells & Braithwaite Solicitors 61 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6HA, or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, St Albans House, 57-60 Haymarket, London, SW1Y 4QX quoting the above reference. Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

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■ VISUAL ART 2

Traditionalists rather than fogeys? The New English Art Club sets out its stall

THE TIMES ARTS

■ VISUAL ART 3

A new show, *Ben Nicholson and Two Wives*, provides rare and rewarding insights

■ TOMORROW

A proper view of St Paul's? Marcus Binney on the growing scandal of Paternoster Square

AROUND THE GALLERIES

SUCH was the glamour of the alliance between Britain's two most famous and gifted abstract artists, Ben Nicholson and Barbara Hepworth, that his previous wife, Winifred (Roberts), has tended to be left out of the equation almost as completely as Hepworth's previous husband, the sculptor John Skeaping. While one could claim that Skeaping, though in his own way talented, had no important place in the story of modern art, the current exhibition at Crane Kalman, *Ben Nicholson and Two Wives*, is a salutary reminder that Winifred was at the very least an important figure in Ben's formative years, and a remarkable artist in her own right. There are no clear-cut divisions in the lives of all three. True, the relationship between Ben's and Winifred's work is almost entirely on Ben's figurative side, while that between Ben's and Barbara's is largely on his abstract. There are some fine early landscapes where Ben's and Winifred's styles are so close that one has to look twice to be quite sure who painted what and who arrived at which point of development first. The works of Ben and Barbara on show are all first-class, but it is with Winifred's that one gets a real sense of discovery.

Crane Kalman Gallery, 178 Brompton Road, SW3 (0171-584 3843) until May 4.

☐ Family relations of a less tangled nature are featured in *Sumray and Sumray* at the Boundary Gallery. The two Sumrays in question are Harman and Jason, father and son. Harman is now 76, Jason 34, but their styles of painting are not as different as one might imagine from the age difference. Jason's colour is cooler, his paint surface more agitated. Harmon's approach is more closely related to the flat surface on which he paints. Jason is more interested in almost sculptural modelling. But their subject matter is very similar. Curiosity about Harman is gratified to some extent by a couple of earlier works like *Figure with Bird* (Icarus) of 1953, which looks very like the contemporary work of Colquhoun and Macbryde. Now it would be interesting to compare also the work of Harman's artist-twin Maurice.

Boundary Gallery, 98 Boundary Road, NW3 (0171-624 1126), until April 20.

☐ More happy families in *Joan Warburton: Portrait of a Lifetime* at Sally Hunter. Joan Warburton, like Harman Sumray, was born in 1920, and — perhaps the crucial step in her artistic life — enrolled in Cedric Morris's East Anglian School of Painting in 1937. In 1945 she met and married the potter Peter O'Malley, and after some years in London they moved to Essex, back near Morris and his partner Lett Haines. One of the most striking works in the show is a drawing by Warburton of O'Malley in 1945; at a glance one would immediately suppose it to be the work of Lucian Freud, whose time at the Morris school overlapped by at least a year with Warburton's. It is clear that Morris's influence on all his pupils has been strong and far-reaching, extending to the vibrant colours they employ as well as the sophisticatedly simple graphic style. To this day, Warburton retains these qualities, and the most recent still-lifes are also the most charming.

Sally Hunter Fine Art, 11 Halkin Arcade, SW1 (0171-235 0934), until April 19.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

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Richard Cork assesses a champion of Impressionism's own work

In *Le Pont de l'Europe* (1876), Gustave Caillebotte "conveyed his fascination with Paris's changing structure"

The collector's items

Like many admirers of Impressionism, I first came across Gustave Caillebotte as a donor's name attached to paintings by other, more celebrated artists. Masterpieces like Manet's *The Balcony* or Renoir's *Ball at the Moulin de la Galette*, now among the most prized canvases in the French national collections, arrived there through Caillebotte's generosity and pioneering belief in the Impressionist cause. But they nearly did not enter the public domain at all.

In 1894, after a stroke killed him at the age of 45, his will disclosed that he had left around 60 works by Degas, Cézanne, Monet and other leading Impressionists to the State. They amounted, as Caillebotte himself knew, to a challenge: these paintings were still reviled by many powerful curators, and they reacted to his bequest with hostility. Only after rejecting some pictures, including important Cézannes, did they agree that the rest could be displayed — not in the Louvre, but the Musée du Luxembourg. And when these 40 pictures were finally put on display in 1897, many viewers denounced them as rubbish. The first group of Impressionist paintings ever to be exhibited in a French museum, they bore the brunt of public hostility to a movement which has only gained its present popularity during the present century.

Caillebotte, however, was far more than a wealthy and discerning collector. As the Royal Academy's new exhibition discloses, he was also a substantial artist in his own right. The Impressionists' first exhibition of 1874 was a revelation to him, and two years later his fast-maturing work as a painter earned him an invitation to take part in their next show.

But, although respected by his allies, Caillebotte never enjoyed the renown they eventually gained. The Academy's survey is the first comprehensive exhibition of his work to be held in Britain, and even today he remains an unfamiliar name. An initial look at the paintings assembled here helps to explain why. Caillebotte lacked the essential definess of touch, the ability to improvise and beguile, which accounts for Impressionism's enduring appeal. He is a thoughtful and diligent artist, largely unconcerned with seducing the viewer.

Caillebotte thrived on the tensions of urban life. His true individuality only comes to the fore when he defines the unease of Parisian streets and interiors. If Renoir rejoiced in the pleasures of metropolitan existence, Caillebotte was not afraid to explore the more disquieting sides of life in the French capital.

The exhibition has not, unfortunately, been able to borrow his greatest urban painting — the monumental *Paris Street: Rainy Day*, now presiding over its room in the Art Institute of Chicago. But the Academy does boast *Le Pont de l'Europe*, which Caillebotte displayed with the Chicago canvas at the third Impressionist show in 1877. Taking as his subject a recently constructed iron bridge, which boldly connected six streets in a radial design, he conveyed his fascination with the city's rapidly changing structure.

Caillebotte grew up in Paris during the Second Empire, witnessing the transformation brought about by Napoleon III and his enterprising prefect of Paris, Baron Haussmann. By carving 85 miles of grand boulevards through the slums, Haussmann created a hygienic and formidably well-organised urban network where revolutionary barricades could no longer be erected with ease. The boulevards were the last word in modernised uniformity, and in his *Rainy Day* canvas Caillebotte coolly conveyed the vastness of damp thoroughfares where pedestrians, protected by umbrellas, seem marooned within their impersonal new surroundings.

Art of a city: an 1880 image of *A Balcony (Boulevard Haussmann)*

The weather is far brighter in the Pont de l'Europe canvas, but sunshine does not tempt Caillebotte to adopt a more hedonistic approach. In a carefully planned composition, he places us on the bridge and uses powerful spatial recession to lead our eyes towards the distant smoke from a train below. The fierce criss-cross patterns of the bridge's metal spans, and the equally stern blue shadows they cast on the pavement, cut a diagonal path through the painting. They appear to symbolise the strength of the industrial age, and Caillebotte relishes their ability to splinter the views of the city beyond.

After a while, though, the mighty iron girders take on a more oppressive air. They stamp themselves on the image like prison bars, and appear to affect the spirits of the ruminative worker who gazes through them. His loose, well-worn clothes and sagging stance contrast with the crispness of the top-hatted gentleman walking towards us. Caillebotte, like Manet before him, was fascinated by the disparity between the social classes found on the streets. But the seeming respectability of the well-dressed boulevardier is compromised by the presence, just behind him, of a lady with a parasol. Fashionably attired, she looks across at him; while he, pausing, glances back at her. Caillebotte leaves us to speculate about the possibility that she is a courtesan on the prowl, and the dog waving its tail in the foreground acts as a frisky reminder of animal appetites.

However many reservations Caillebotte may have harboured about modern city life, he probably regarded the streets as a release from the constriction of home. The most elaborate of these images, *Luncheon*, could hardly be more stifling. The artist's mother, a grave and white-haired presence seated at the far end of a well-polished dining table, is served by the family butler. Caillebotte's brother René seems oblivious of her presence, however. He has already demolished most of the food on his plate. The abundance of crystal decanters and goblets glittering around him testifies to considerable prosperity, but no amount of expensive tableware can compensate for the sense of distance between mother and son in this forlorn painting.

They are as isolated from each other as the two pedestrians stranded on a traffic island in the Boulevard Haussmann, the subject of a remarkably daring picture. Viewed from a precipitously high vantage, so that the bare oval of the island is asserted in all its geometric severity, the scene separates the minuscule men with an expanse of white emptiness. The fact that they face in opposite directions increases their solitude, and the absence from the encircling road of anything other than a swiftly brushed carriage increases the eeriness.

This is the most uncompromisingly modern of all Caillebotte's paintings, and its semi-abstract spareness could hardly be more removed from the meticulous clutter of *Luncheon*. They represent the two extremes in Caillebotte's art, united by a prescient awareness of the gathering alienation in late 19th-century life.

Although his subsequent work reveals a sad waning of intensity and ambition, the images Caillebotte produced during the 1870s deserve to be counted among the most challenging products of the movement he did so much to support.

● Gustave Caillebotte *at the Royal Academy (0171-494 5615) until June 23*

New perspective on tradition

Simon Tait on a group of artists still passionately committed to drawing and painting from nature

Founded towards the end of the last century as an alternative to the Royal Academy, the New English Art Club initially brought together a group of young painters trained in France and inspired by the "*pleinairisme*" — open-air painting — of Bastien-Lepage and the Barbizon School. In English terms, they represented the end of the narrative painting so firmly espoused by the Royal Academy at the time.

Early members included Walter Sickert, Wilson Steer, Stanhope Forbes, John Singer Sargent, Paul Nash and William Orpen. Some of them mellowed with age and became Royal Academicians themselves. Later new blood included Augustus John and then Gwen John.

The president of the Royal Academy, Frederic Leighton, went to the opening of what was intended to be the first of the club's annual exhibitions at the Marlborough Galleries in 1886. "The second year will try, the third probably disband them," he predicted dismissively.

But the New English survived, and has had its open exhibition more or less annually, though relatively obscurely in the postwar decades. "After the 1940s and 1950s," says Tom Coates, a long-standing member, "something went wrong and it lost its point a bit. There were some odd elections and it got rather dingy, rather difficult to see how we were different from any other artists' club."

A century on and the club is holding a short sale exhibition at the Fine Art Society which, it is hoped, will raise £100,000 for its pastoral role as a peripatetic drawing school.

"The point is that few art schools are teaching drawing any more, and one of our principles is that drawing is at the root of everything," says Jason Bowyer, who travels the country teaching "anyone who wants to hold a pencil" on behalf of the New English. His father is William Bowyer, secretary of the New English — in its democratic style, there is no president but a secretary, a treasurer and a keeper.

There are more than 70 members now, all elected by the members, and there is still an annual open exhibition, usually at the Mall Galleries, also selected by the whole membership. Abstract painters are welcome, provided their work is inspired by the same natural influences as the figurative artists.

The annual open almost did not survive the recession, but Marks & Spencer came to the rescue with sponsorship. Christie's has also pitched in, paying for the catalogue.

"We're not here as a fogeyish reminder of the 1890s," said Bill Bowyer. "We're passionate about the disciplines of figurative art.

"I'll defend the right of anyone to paint a daffodil in a milk jug now as much as in 1886. That doesn't change. As long as it's a reasonably good daffodil."

● The New English Art Club 2000, *an exhibition and silent auction, is at the Fine Art Society, 148 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171 629 5116), until Thursday*

■ THEATRE

No more beating about the Bush: the brilliant young Dominic Dromgoole spreads his wings

■ MUSIC 1

Controversial but compelling: Pierre Boulez reveals a fresh approach to Mahler

THE TIMES ARTS

■ MUSIC 2

Winner by a mile: Rafal Payne dazzles at the BBC Young Musician of the Year

■ DANCE

English National Ballet brings a spirited updating of *Giselle* to the Coliseum

DANCE

Ghosts on the attack

THE real delight of English National Ballet's *Giselle* is not the gimmicky first act, where Giselle is a chambermaid in 1920s Austria and Albrecht drives a Rolls-Royce, but the wonderfully atmospheric second act, where the company's true strengths are revealed.

It wasn't long ago that ENB couldn't muster a creditable line-up of Wilis (or swans for that matter), a fairly critical problem for a company that makes its living out of the classics. But if Derek Deane has done just one thing to validate his appointment as artistic director three years ago, that one thing must be whipping his dancers into shape.

Thursday's performance (the London premiere of Deane's production) fielded an impressive lineup of Wilis whose uniformity and commitment provided a thrilling backbone to the drama. They really were a creepy troupe of avenging females on the ram-

Giselle/ Square Dance
Coliseum

page, their black eyes and white faces summoning up images of vampires. Josephine Jewkes, as Myrtha, led them with fierce determination — not a ghost to be trifled with.

Dmitri Gruzdyev, who made a strong impact in the first half with his robust Hilarion, went for broke in Act II. His daring backward leap, as Hilarion is dispatched to death by the Wilis, was so effectively executed that there were those in the audience who feared for Gruzdyev's safety.

Lisa Pavane is an accomplished dancer, her gentleness belying her physical strength. Her Giselle made all the right moves, although there was nothing out of the ordinary about her interpretation. Thomas Edur, on the other hand, treated us to his extraordinary classicism. As Albrecht, the refinement of his dancing should have been a giveaway from the start — no one dances like this except an aristocrat. Edur's beats in his dance of death were textbook-perfect, yet even in the grip of such an exhausting technical feat he still managed to plead Albrecht's case beautifully.

Deane's production is meant to be fun, although I suspect the decision to update the ballet to the Twenties and set it in a country hotel full of skiers (designs by Charles Cusick-Smith) has more to do with the design possibilities of vintage cars and furry hats than with any dramatic logic.

There were no designs to speak of in Balanchine's sublime *Square Dance*, which opened the bill. This is pure dancing at its most ecstatic, as Balanchine marries the high-spirited communality of American folk dancing to the glamorous sophistication of neo-classical ballet. The whole thing is set — gloriously — to music by Corelli and Vivaldi. Ambra Vallo, in particular, got the measure of the choreography, sparkling like one of the diamond earrings that adorn Balanchine's women.

DEBRA CRAINE

Moses leaves burning Bush

Dominic Dromgoole tells **Benedict Nightingale** why he quit the pub theatre he made a success

In 1990 the 25-year-old Dominic Dromgoole cheekily applied for the job of artistic director at the Bush, in west London. Since leaving Cambridge five years earlier, he had read scripts for the theatre and been that all-purpose dogsbody called an assistant director, but he had never staged a play there. Indeed, his only professional productions had been a couple of pieces at a much less prestigious London pub theatre, the Old Red Lion, in Islington.

"But I did the best interview I've ever done, and they took a wild gamble on me," Dromgoole says. "They thought they could either get an established director and go on the same way, which wasn't working at the time, or they could get in a hooligan and, if he made a mess, tell him to shove off. Fortunately, the mess came out all right."

Indeed it did. We hear a good deal these days about an explosion of new writing at Stephen Daldry's Royal Court and its Theatre Upstairs; but Dromgoole might have been hiding his light rather than displaying it at the Bush for all the public ado his impending departure has caused. That is a pity. Whatever the success of his valedictory production of Samuel Adamson's *Clocks and Whistles*, which opens tonight, he has moved a stagnant theatre to the centre of British theatre's volcanic zone.

Since January 1991, the creative fires at Shepherds Bush have been throwing up ten plays a year, most of them world premieres, the rest English premieres, and virtually all by unknown writers. That is more than twice the number staged by the previous regime, and is matched by a rise in audiences and takings. Turnover is £600,000 compared with £300,000 in 1990, and some 75 per cent of the theatre's 130 seats are now being sold, compared with about 25 per cent before.

The discoveries include Naomi Wallace, Richard Cameron, Simon Bent, Philip Ridley, David Ashton and Jonathan Harvey, whose *Beautiful Thing* went on to conquer the West End and is to become a film. In 1987 Dromgoole found Billy Roche's *Handful of Stars* in the slush-pile and recommended its production, thus launching not only the trilogy that culminated in the marvellous *Belfry* at the Bush in 1991, but one of the most luminous careers of our era.

Attention to the slush-pile, as both publishers and theatres call the myriad unsolicited scripts that clutter their boxrooms, is one of the secrets of the resurgent Bush's success. Starting with Roche and Harvey, writer after writer has come from this improbable source. Dromgoole's own opening production was *Our Own Kind*, originally a half-

> ❛ We have no aesthetic, social or political agenda. Talent is all ❜

finished play penned as a therapeutic exercise by Roy MacGregor after a stint in an alcoholism clinic. He is now a thriving TV dramatist, as is Lucy Gannon, another slush-pile pioneer.

A sharp eye for talent has played its part in the Bush's rebirth, but so has luck and response to cultural change. When Dromgoole took over, the fashion was for classic revivals and what he calls "big swish physical productions". "New drama was in retreat. The plays seemed to be rather dry, arid and intellectual. Also, there was a tremendous amount of victim drama. You were meant to look at suffering characters and say, 'Oh, how terrible'.

"I thought this was ill-equipped to deal with the new world emerging in the 1990s. We wanted something juicier, more energetic and textured, with more exciting language. I also thought it was time we put the aggressor onstage instead of asking the audience to spend its time being sympathetic. But above all, I thought we should ask the writers what they wanted to do, and let them do it. We have no aesthetic, social or political agenda. Following talent is all."

Products of the policy have ranged from Bent's recent *Goldhawk Road*, which hilariously packed a family of spivs, drones and misanthropes into a shabby flat supposedly sited just down the street from the Bush itself, to Wallace's scorching Great Plague play *One Flea Spare*, to *White Woman Street*, Sebastian Barry's tale of banditry in America. The last of these introduced London to the author of *The Steward of Christendom* and demonstrated the extraordinary flexibility of the Bush.

That has become more marked than ever during Dromgoole's tenure. A few square yards, bounded on two sides by steep rakes of notably uncomfortable square cushions, has become a church and belfry, a swimming pool, and, in the case of *White Woman Street*, Ohio forests and trails. "Yes, and people riding horses, shooting pigs, going to the whorehouse ... We tell writers they don't have to be reductive. They can be as ambitious and wild as they like. It's up to us to match their imaginations."

With the Bush in full spate, why is Dromgoole leaving? As he rather improbably describes it, he decided to hand in his notice during a dullish board meeting, and, when he did, his fellow-members said: "Oh, are you going?". "I honestly believe that people in charge of a public institution should be thrown out after five or six years," he says. "I try to be as effective as I can but I do exercise my own taste, and I think it's an abuse of public money if a theatre reflects one person's taste for too long."

So Mike Bradwell will be moving into the Bush this summer while Dromgoole moves out, to do some freelance directing and, he hopes, put together some film projects. "I adore the place. I love the way you can walk out of that terrific pub bar and go straight into the theatre. I'll miss it a lot. But it's time to go."

● Clocks and Whistles *opens at the Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (0181-743 3388) tonight*

TONY WHITE

Dominic Dromgoole reflects on six years as artistic director of the Bush theatre

POP

Pearls in the treacle

THERE is an aura of mystery surrounding Heather Nova which does not always work to her advantage. Her third album, *Oyster*, has quietly sold 400,000 copies since it was released at the end of 1994. But despite receiving a measure of critical approval, her media profile remains much lower than such a sales figure would suggest, especially given her obviously photogenic looks.

Born in Bermuda in 1967, the singer and songwriter has taken a musical tack that is somewhat out of sync with the prevailing trend for mainstream artists, such as Alanis Morissette, Garbage and Sheryl Crow, who favour a firm, even aggressive delivery.

On stage at ULU, Nova and her four-piece band were bathed in gloomy washes of colour and constantly revolving patterns reminiscent of the psychedelic lightshows invented in clubs such as the Middle Earth in the Sixties. "You

Heather Nova
ULU, WC2

know that dream when your feet won't move, you want to come but your body won't let you?" she sang in *Island*, a harrowing song about the effects of domestic violence. The trouble was that Nova's whole show was a bit like that — dreamy and ethereal, but at times like wading through a vat of dark treacle.

Her voice was extraordinary — delicately soaring and dipping like birdsong and producing an effect not unlike the squeaking of dolphins during the coda of *Blue Black*. Her four-piece band, which featured the melancholy cello playing of Nadia Lanman and the wispy distortions of a guitarist called Bic, provided the sort of heavily textured rock sound that was much in favour during the shoegazing era. The effect, especially on slower numbers such as *Heal*, was somewhere between classic Cocteau Twins and the Cranberries on Mogadon.

Accompanied only by cello and her own guitar, Nova sang Neil Young's *Like a Hurricane* as if her life depended on it. But even during such moments of passion, she remained self-contained and introverted, as if addressing the song to her own inner being as opposed to the audience who had paid to hear it.

The fragile beauty of Walk This World, Maybe an Angel and the new single, *Truth and Bone*, brought out the best in both Nova and her band, while a solo acoustic sequence of "encores" underlined her ear for a tune. But a little more projection and punch would not go amiss if she is now to build on the sturdy foundations laid down with *Oyster*.

DAVID SINCLAIR

CONCERTS: Authority of a veteran Russian conductor; a new star violinist is discovered; unconventional Mahler

Stamp of old Russia

RPO/Musin/ Edwards
Barbican

ONLY weeks after making his Western debut at the age of 92, the veteran Russian conductor Ilya Musin returned to London on Friday and Saturday for a further two appearances. As mentor of almost every notable Russian conductor, and teacher of several Westerners, he was replacing one former pupil, the indisposed Valery Gergiev, and sharing the podium with another, Sian Edwards.

Musin opened Saturday's concert with a noble account of Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet* Fantasy Overture. Its steady authority bore all the hallmarks of the old Russian school — Musin's own teacher, Nikolay Malko, had himself been a Glazunov and Rimsky-Korsakov pupil.

After the spare, fluid beat he demonstrated in Tchaikovsky's subdued first section, the energy with which he unleashed potent climaxes came as a surprise. It was his shaping of the piece that told: the broad warmth of the love theme and the careful placing of the final chords were conducting lessons in themselves.

It would have been wonderful to hear Musin do Shostakovich — the two men enrolled on the same day at the St Petersburg Conservatory — but the First Violin Concerto is a long, tiring work. Sian Edwards accompanied Vadim Repin considerately, perhaps too much: the sprawling first movement needed firmer control, and ensemble in the fast movements was not always secure. Repin was a thoughtful soloist, but he played with seemingly boundless virtuosity in the Scherzo and Burlesque.

Both the RPO's programmes were designed to complement the Barbican's Diaghilev exhibition, and in the second one Edwards conducted a glowing *Firebird*. Her interpretation had enchanted mystery. The big "numbers" went well, especially the brilliant Infernal Dance and haunting Lullaby, but from start to finish this was a performance full of subtle shadings.

JOHN ALLISON

Polish student takes a bow

BBC Young Musician Final
Birmingham/BBC2

THERE has never been a more accomplished BBC Young Musician than Rafal Payne. Born in Poland 18 years ago, now resident in Aberdeen and a violin student at the Yehudi Menuhin School, he was both the popular favourite and the expert selection. He was so far ahead of the competition in the concerto final that there would surely have been a demonstration if the jury hadn't come to the same conclusion as everyone else.

This does not necessarily mean that he is a better instrumentalist than, say, Katy Price, the 17-year-old trombonist, or Sam Walton, the 18-year-old percussionist. The unfortunate fact is that in a depressingly uninteresting work like Gordon Jacob's Trombone Concerto or even Richard Rodney Bennett's Percussion Concerto, which is resourceful but inevitably limited in its scoring for mainly unpitched instruments, it is scarcely possible to tell what kind of musician the soloist is. Rafal Payne left some questions unanswered in Khachaturian's Violin Concerto. But he did respond to the inspiration and charm of the work and he negotiated the many technical problems with remarkable aplomb.

The violinist might not have been so far ahead of the other concerto finalists if the adjudication in all sections had been as perceptive as it was for the string players. The television programmes on BBC2 last week devoted to the instrumental finals were necessarily selective but there seemed to be some particularly promising material among the pianists and the woodwind players. The piano finalist, Julien Cheriyan, gave a thoughtful performance of the Grieg concerto but it was just too big for him. Mozart's Bassoon Concerto was similarly undercharacterised by Benjamin Hudson.

All the finalists were accompanied with professional efficiency by the National Youth Orchestra under Ivor Bolton.

GERALD LARNER

Boulez strikes a new chord with Mahler

Vienna PO/Boulez
LPO/Rozhdestvensky
Festival Hall

PIERRE BOULEZ is a man of constant surprises. After three decades (1962-92) in which he and the **Vienna Philharmonic** made no music together, he has begun a new relationship with the orchestra. He has also begun a fresh relationship with Mahler. His interpretation of the Sixth Symphony was released last year, the Seventh is due out in May, and on Sunday he unveiled his thoughts on the Fifth.

It was an intriguing mix: the most voluptuous orchestra under the most cerebral conductor in some of the most neurotic music ever composed. But is Mahler's emotional universe necessarily defined by neurosis? This was only one question posed by Boulez.

He began with a funeral march whose tread suggested not grim determination but self-awareness: a journey undertaken in pensive mood. But if there was not overt emotionalism, there was in its place a complex of finely calibrated tensions. And, most revelatory of all, was the new light in which Mahler's textures emerged. With solo instruments perfectly balanced, wind choirs harmoniously blended, and strings capable of infinite shadings, one did not know which to admire more: the musicians' virtuosity or the conductor's impeccable ear.

An overwhelming brass-topped climax aside, the second movement was notable less for a generalised "stormy", "vehement" character (the score markings) than for another, skilfully plotted structure of cumulative energies. Most radical of all were the third and fourth movements. The Scherzo lacked the earthy vulgarity usually considered *de rigueur*, while the elegance of the waltz-like Trio was enough to cause one to harbour the bizarre fantasy of Boulez leading the Viennese at one of their new year's concerts.

Instead of adopting the now fashionable faster tempo in the Adagietto Boulez lingered over every phrase. Yet there was no trace of sentimentality; rather a miraculously controlled contemplation of infinity. It took us time to come to terms with Boulez's Wagner in the Sixties. Now, 30 years on, he is challenging us with an unconventional approach to Mahler.

A few weeks ago, Mark Elder and the BBC Symphony Orchestra showed us that the idealistic young Shostakovich could respond with enthusiasm to texts celebrating "October, the Commune and Lenin" in his choral Second Symphony. Last Thursday, Gennadi Rozhdestvensky and the **London Philharmonic** forced us to consider the possibility that even as late as 1961 Shostakovich might have been prepared to celebrate the Russian Revolution in a Utopian spirit.

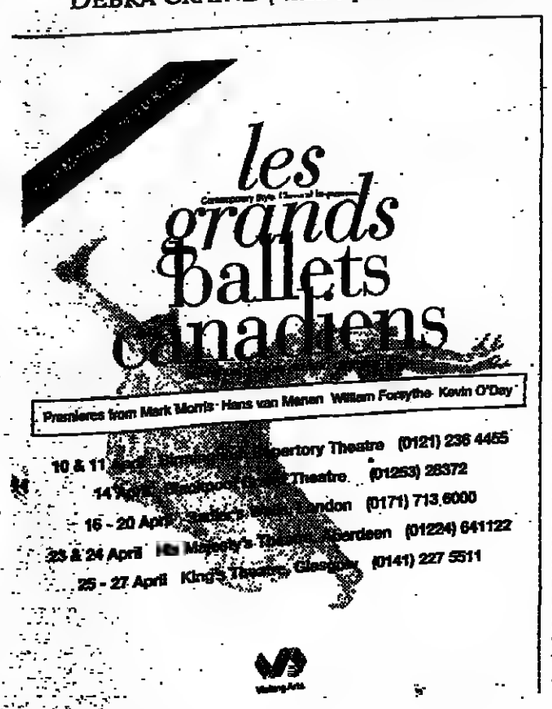
The work was the Twelfth Symphony, subtitled "The Year 1917", and dedicated to Lenin's memory. Certainly the symphony evokes revolutionary ferment. It also has an undeniably idealistic strain running through it.

On the other hand, the composer's son, Maxim, has spoken of the music's universal message (revolutionary struggle as a constant feature of history) and his widow, Irina, has suggested that he wished to describe Pushkin's vision of an ideal ruler.

Whatever the truth, Rozhdestvensky's full-blooded performance hinted at no ironies. The Utopianism was moving, and even the triumphal peroration, which can sound hollow, drew a vociferous response from the audience.

Before the interval, a different Russian soul was bared. Dmitri Alexeev and Rozhdestvensky launched the initial variations of Rachmaninov's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* with taut, muscular rhythms. Together pianist and conductor charted a journey through the flatter keys to the more mellow, emotional territory at the work's heart. When they reached the famous 18th variation, passion was held in check until it could be contained no longer. The performance ended with a typical Rozhdestvensky gesture. For the work's throwaway ending he turned to the audience, throwing his arms in the air as though blowing a kiss. Good theatre, but also superb music-making.

BARRY MILLINGTON



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■ CHOICE 1

The best of Ken Campbell: bizarre fun from the manic one

VENUE: This week at Watermans Arts Centre

■ CHOICE 2

Donald Sinden returns to the stage in That Good Night

VENUE: At the Yvonne Arnaud, Guildford

THE TIMES ARTS

■ MUSICAL

Chequered career: the musical *Chess* is back on the British stage, but is it any better?

■ OPERA

Morley College bravely mounts a staging of Malcolm Williamson's *English Eccentrics*

LONDON

CHOICE CHUNKS. Ken Campbell gives an evening of excerpts from his sublimely bizarre, rambling, captivating solo shows. A liberating experience. **Watermans Arts Centre**, High Street, Brentford (0181-568 1176). Previews tonight and opens tomorrow, 7.30pm. Then Tue-Sat, 7.30pm. *Until Apr 13*

MUSIC AT THE SOUTH BANK. Violinist Gidon Kremer starts the evening at the Festival Hall, joining the Philharmonia Orchestra for a programme of Prokofiev, Tchaikovsky and Schnittke, Christoph Eschenbach conducts. Meanwhile the excellent period instrument Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment performs Bach's Cantatas No 173a and 201 at the Queen Elizabeth Hall. **Festival Hall**, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). RFH, 7.30pm. QEH, 7.45pm

A WEEK'S WORTH. The Almeida offers up a real treat this week, a series of solo performances by the marvellous Irene Worth, 80 this year. Three separate programmes. *A Portrait of Edith Wharton. Prosper Mérimee's Gypsies and The Letters of Sand and Flaubert* (with Peter Eyre). **Almeida**, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Wharton, Apr 3 and 6, 8pm; Gypsies, Apr 2 and 4, 8pm; Sand, Apr 5, 8pm and Apr 6, 4pm

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

ELSEWHERE

BAGNOR: Opening night for Helen Ryan and Al Matthews as gruff tyrant and black chauffeur in **Driving Miss Daisy**, Alfred Uhry's touching and delightful Pulitzer Prizewinner. **Watermill** (01635 46044). Tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; May 11, 6.30pm, mats (from Apr 6) Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm. Until May 11

GLASGOW: **Scottish Opera** has secured the fine French soprano Isabelle Vernet for the title role of *Alceste*, Gluck's great reform opera. His "beautiful simplicity" demands both fierce projection of simple lines from the singer, and concentration on a plot of a woman prepared to die in her husband's place — Mark Padmore plays the husband, Nicholas McGegan conducts and Yannis Kokkos is the producer-designer. **Theatre Royal**, Hope Street (0141-332 9000). Tonight and Thurs, 7.15pm

GUILDFORD: Donald Sinden returns to the stage for the premiere of N J Crisp's **That Good Night**. A leisurely recuperative stay at an Italian villa becomes a summer of mayhem when Ralph's son arrives unexpectedly with his latest girlfriend in tow. Edward Hall directs the poignant fun. **Yvonne Arnaud**, Millbrook (01483 440000). Mon-Thurs, 7.45pm, Fri and Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm. Until Apr 13

NEWCASTLE: Just in time for term break, **The Adventures of Pinocchio** is brought to the stage by Nottingham Playhouse and Italy's inventive children's theatre company, Teatro Kismet. Great fun, suitable for six-year-olds and upwards. Maren Duncan directs. **Playhouse**, Haymarket (0191-230 5151). Tonight, 7pm; Wed, Thurs and Sat, 2pm and 7pm

LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum: Volcano and Volcanoes: Sir William Hamilton collection (0171-636 1555). **Courtauld:** Drawings by Thomas Gainsborough (071-873 2526). **Hayward:** Spellbound: Art and Film (071-928 3144). **National Gallery:** At Home with Constable's Cornfield (0171-747 2885). **National Portrait Gallery:** The Room in View (0171-306 0055). **Tate:** Marlene Dumas: Works on Paper; Cézanne (0171-887 8000). **V & A:** The Leighton Frescoes; Design Now: San Lorenzo Silversmiths Studio, Milan (0171-938 8500). **Whitechapel:** Jeff Wall: Illuminated transparencies (0171-522 7888)

Soft-core pawns end in stalemate

THEATRE

Chess
Orchard, Dartford

Ten years after it first opened, *Chess* is trying for a comeback, having been reworked during its travels round the world. This production, staged by the choreographer Anthony van Laast, is touring the UK. *Chess* was the creation of a big-shot collaboration: Tim Rice joined forces with Andersson and Ulvaeus, Abba's Benny and Bjorn. The result, however, was chequered: a hit-and-miss musical.

The story is the main problem. Two Grand Masters get embroiled in a sketchy love triangle while squaring up in a tournament which is, in turn, becoming confused (to put it mildly) with political moves between America and the Soviet Union. At the first championship, the Russian Sergievsky wins the match and the heart of Trumper's woman, our Anglo-Hungarian heroine Florence Vassy (Jacqui Scott, who shines). Sergievsky (Maurice Clarke) smartly defects to the West.

We jump to the next year, in Thailand (where one can sing to a different tune). Trumper (Bogdan Kominowski) turns up, not playing chess but apparently in cahoots with a TV commentator who must be something to do with the CIA. Mrs Sergievsky materialises, vaguely tied up with the KGB and Sergievsky's second, Molokov (Nicholas Pound). Suddenly Sergievsky is heading back East, leaving Florence to ensure the release of her hitherto irrelevant father. These Cold War manoeuvres remain scrambled, and now they look out of date as well.

However, Rice's lyrics aren't bad, supplying some nice tongue-in-cheek internal rhymes. The closing message, that you cannot rely on relationships, unsentimentally resists the upbeat. The opening also offers a bit of a surprise, kicking off with an encyclopaedic history of the board game, set to a tune. This musical may aspire to seriousness in its echoes of Tchaikovsky and Russian choirs, but ultimately does so only superficially. The company's performance is polished. Robin Wagner's design, like a great glass box, lit by Ross Corbett, is less gaudy than many a musical set. A ghostly choir sings in potent harmony in the half-light. But tackiness will seep in. They move on to the chessboard floor, which lights up and starts spinning and tilting.

The Streets of Bangkok, the red-light number, falls flat. Kominowski strains vocally and *Play the Child*, the bully's wailing solo about his wretched formative years, is a preposterous insert. Still, Benny and Bjorn do score several hits en route: *I Know Him So Well*, the ladies' double love song; the emotional swell of *Someone Else's Story*; and the climactic final blast of *Nobody's on Nobody's Side*.

KATE BASSETT

Your move: Nicholas Pound and Maurice Clarke in the touring *Chess*

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
◪ Some seats available
□ Seats at all prices

□ **BONDAGERS.** Sue Glover's richly atmospheric drama following six women of the 1860s at work on a Borders farm. Ian Brown's superb Traverse production. **Donmar Warehouse**, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). *Tonight-Sat*, 8pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm

□ **COMPANY.** Adrian Lester, Sheila Gish, Sophie Thompson in an excellent staging of Sondheim's bittersweet musical on marriage, pro and contra. **Albery**, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

◪ **THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED).** The RSC's (Reduced Shakespeare Company) popular potty rough-handling of the Bard. *The Complete History of America (abridged)* plays Tues. **Criterion**, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1737). Wed-Sat, 8pm, Mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5pm and Sun, 4pm

□ **DEFINITELY DORIS.** Revue-style musical celebrating the life and songs of Miss Day. Cast of five, and said to feature more than 40 of the songs. **King's Head**, 115 Upper Street, N1 (0171-226 1916). Previews tonight-Apr 7, 8pm. Opens Apr 10, 7.30pm

□ **LA DOLCE VITA.** New David Glass production derived from the Fellini film that introduced us to the word *paparazzi*. **Lyric**, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311). Previews tonight-Thurs, and Sat, 7.30pm; opens Apr 9, 7pm. Until Apr 27

◪ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS.** Stephen Daldry's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing Inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society. **Garrick**, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm; Sat, 8.15pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5pm

◪ **A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC.** Elegant and successful production by Sean Mathias of Sondheim's Swedish charmer. Judi Dench, Patricia Hodge, Sian Phillips and Lambert Wilson among the stars shining in the night. **National** (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight-Mon, 7.15pm, mat Sat, 2pm. No perf Fri; in rep

■ **SKYLIGHT.** Outstanding playing by Michael Gambon and Lia Williams in David Hare's dramatisation of society's conflicts in the form of a prickly reunion between two lovers. **Wyndham's**, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat 3pm.

□ **PRESENT LAUGHTER.** Peter Bowles plays Coward's exaggerated self-portrait in an only so-so production. **Aldwych**, The Aldwych, WC2 (0171-379 3367). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 4pm

■ **THE THICKNESS OF SKIN.** Hettie Macdonald directs Clare McIntyre's first play for six years. Elizabeth Garvie and Rupert Frazer, Amelia Bullmore and Mark Strong play sets of neighbours who can't do each other good. **Theatre Upstairs**, Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745). Opens tonight, 7pm. Wed, 7pm, then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Apr 18, 3pm; Sat, 4pm

◪ **TOMMY.** Hugely impressive staging of the traumatised child's apotheosis to pinball wizard. Loads of electronic tricks disguise the improbability. **Shaftesbury**, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5399). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

□ **VICTORIANA.** New political play by David Hart, this time about Disraeli, Gladstone and the latter's concern for prostitutes. Jon Harris directs. **New End**, 27 New End, NW3 (0171-794 0022). Previews tonight and tomorrow, and opens Thurs, 7.30pm. Until Apr 28

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

NEW RELEASES

● **BALTO** (U). Bland animated film about the canine hero of a 1925 diptheria epidemic in Alaska. Director, Simon Wells. **MGM Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** ◪ (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

● **CUTTHROAT ISLAND** (PG). Redundant pirate movie, with two miscast stars (Geena Davis, Matthew Modine). Director, Renny Harlin. **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

DEAD MAN WALKING (15). Oscar winner Susan Sarandon visits Sean Penn on Death Row. Powerful, carefully balanced drama about capital punishment. Director, Tim Robbins. **Gate** ◪ (0171-727 4043) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** ◪ (0171-370 2636) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

● **DUNSTON CHECKS IN** (PG). Orang-utan causes havoc in a five-star hotel. Perky family comedy with Jason Alexander, Rupert Everett and Faye Dunaway. Director, Ken Kwapis. **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ●) on release across the country

● **LAWNMOWER MAN 2: BEYOND CYBERSPACE** (12). Patrick Bergin and kids battle Matt Frewer in the land of virtual reality. Moderate high-tech fantasy, directed by Farhad Mann. **Odeon West End** (01426 915574)

● **SGT. BILKO** (PG). Crass spin-off from Phil Silvers' television comedy classic, with Steve Martin as the conniving army sergeant. **Empire** ◪ (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

CURRENT

● **CASINO** (18). Scorsese's epic of Las Vegas in the 1970s: glorious background detail, but the human drama flags. With Robert De Niro, Sharon Stone and Joe Pesci. **MGM Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

● **GET SHORTY** (15). John Travolta's loanshark takes on the movie business. Entertaining but trivial comedy from Elmore Leonard's novel. With Danny De Vito, Gene Hackman, Rene Russo. **Empire** (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

● **JUMANJI** (PG). Exhilarating romp about a rainforest board game that comes to life. With Robin Williams. **MGM Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

● **NIXON** (15). Exhausting, overlong portrait with Anthony Hopkins and too much razzle-dazzle from Oliver Stone. **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915383) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

● **TOY STORY** (PG). Computer-animated Disney delight with a cast of frenzy toys. With the voices of Tom Hanks and Tim Allen. **Barbican** ◪ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture** (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426-915 683) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

OPERA: Coherent dramatic statement from a group of oddballs; victorious evening from AD 9

Encore for loony tunes

English Eccentrics
Morley College

MALCOLM WILLIAMSON certainly didn't fit into the fiercely modernist 1960s. He would insist on writing horrible things called "tunes", and composing in a tonal musical language derived — or so critics at the time thought — from idioms as diverse as those of the Richards Strauss and Rodgers. With the vantage of hindsight, Poulenc and Ibert might be closer to the mark, but his style is too personal for such pat pigeonholing.

English Eccentrics was first performed at the 1964 Aldeburgh Festival in tandem with Britten's *Curlew River*. Geoffrey Dunn's clever libretto takes a *galère* of oddballs from Edith Sitwell's study of the same name, and welds their eccentricities into coherent dramatic statement way beyond the "opera-revue" that the material initially suggests. Musically, the two short acts have purposeful shape, moving from farce that does not preclude compassion to pathos. The first shows Sarah Whitehead haunting the Bank of England, whom she believes responsible for her financial ruin, and the second the aged Beau Brummell being carted off to an asylum by women in white coats (two nuns, actually) to a smashing "big tune".

Composed for an experienced and starry cast (Anna Pollak, Owen Brannigan, April Cantelo, John Fryatt), this was a big challenge for Morley Opera last week, and one bravely met. The conductor William Lacey made the most of Williamson's ingenious scoring for a chamber orchestra of seven, and the producer Christopher Cowell controlled the mood shifts from grotesquerie to tragedy with tact. The narrating vocal quartet, confined to the pit at Aldeburgh, were moved to the stage, one of them representing Dame Edith herself (the tenor, which seemed a bit unkind).

Claire Mitcher was duly touching as Sarah Whitehead, and Orlando Schenk made every word tell both as the ageing erotomaniac Thomas Parr and as Philip Thicknesse, the ornamental hermit evicted from his hermitage. Kevin Loe gave an outsize impersonation of the Creole actor Romeo Coates, and Stephen Trowell's waxwork Brummell melted into senile dementia to grand effect. *English Eccentrics* haunted me 30 years ago, and haunts me still. As we move into a pluralist, if not a Post-Modernist, age the time could well be ripe for a full-scale Williamson revival.

RODNEY MILNES

Triumph out of failure

Arminio
Britten Theatre

A CRITIC should never overdo the homework. When contemplating Handel's *Arminio*, I turned up a tome or two only to discover that I had let myself in for one of "Handel's greatest operatic failures". But anyone who dared to visit the Royal College of Music last week may not have been altogether disappointed.

Arminio is Hermann, the German tribal chief who fought against Roman occupation in AD 9 and thereby helped to halt the expansionist policy of Augustus. Plenty of conflict between the ties of blood and love. And human nature ensures that there can be a contemporary subtext to fit any and every period: the producer, Olivia Fuchs, is to be congratulated on *not* setting it all in Chechenia.

As it is, the Germano-Celts wear vegetable-dyed natural fabrics, while the Romans are the ones with navy greatcoats and guns. With Andrea Carr's sets relying on the cracked backdrop and the tilting pillar, the delights of the evening tended to be almost exclusively for the ear. And these were considerable. The last act duet of Arminio and Tusnelda, his wife, is a duel in an austere crown, a score which the 4th Earl of Shaftesbury remarked at its premiere in 1737 is "rather grave, but correct and labour'd in the highest degree".

Denys Darlow, conducting the period instruments of the London Handel Orchestra, saw to it that the evening matched the Earl's description to a nicety. His cast, from the Opera Department of the London Royal Schools' Vocal Faculty (this was a co-presentation with the London Handel Society) were put through some pretty rigorous paces. Arminio himself and his brother-in-law, Sigismondo, have most of the best tunes: the mellifluous American counter-tenor, Lawrence Zazzo, acquitted himself with valour in some truly tortuous arias, and Jeni Bern's boyish soprano brought tender, highly musical phrasing to a role torn between love, friendship, duty and simply concentrating on the notes.

Richard Morrison (not ours) was impressive as the dastardly collaborator, Segeste, James Rutherford a powerful, double-talking Tullio. Kathryn Turpin's mezzo lashed out as Arminio's sister Ramise, and Franzita Whelan held centre stage as Arminio's valiant wife Trusnelda, her soprano lustrous, unflagging and destined for certain victory.

HILARY FINCH

ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 0171 632 8300 (24hr) ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA Tomor 7.30 TOSCA

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 0171 304 4000 for Box Off & Standby info. Tickets available on the day. The Royal Opera Thur, Mon 7.00 ARABELLA. The Royal Ballet Tom't, Tomor, Sat 2.00 & 7.00 GISELLE

THEATRES

ALBERY 369 1730/344 444 420 0000 Eves 7.45, Mats Wed, Sat 3. BEST MUSICAL CRITICS' CIRCLE AWARD 96 BEST ACTOR ADRIAN LESTER BEST ACTRESS SHEILA GISH BEST DIRECTOR SAM MENDES OLIVIER AWARDS 1996 COMPANY by Stephen Sondheim & George Furth Mon-Sat 7.45, Mats Wed, Sat 3.00

ALDWYCH 416 6048/344 4444/420 0000(fee) Mon-Sat 8, Mats Thu 3, Sat 4 PETER BOWLES "A Truly Stunning Performance" Sun. Express DEBORAH GRANT CAROLINE LANGRISHE "Extraordinary" S.Tm "Delicious" D.E in NOEL COWARD's Classic Comedy PRESENT LAUGHTER "VINTAGE COWARD" M on Sun "THIS STYLISHLY MOUNTED PRODUCTION - MORE COMIC THAN MOST" D Mail

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APOLLO LABATTS HAMMERSMITH 416 6060 cc 344 4444/420 0000 (+bkg fee on all mail) "ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER & TIM RICE'S BLOCKBUSTER" Gdn JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT starring PHILLIP SCHOFIELD UNTIL APRIL 29 Tue-Sat 7.30, Mats Thu, Sat 3.00 EXTRA HALF-TERM MATINEES APRIL 4 & 11 ...Riverdance returns 16 May...

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CAMBRIDGE BO & cc 0171 494 5054 cc (no bkg fee) 312 1992/ 344 4444 Grps 413 3321/ 312 1970/ 494 5454 FAME THE MUSICAL "FAME IS A FEEL-GOOD TRIUMPH" Mail On Sunday "BREATHTAKING" Independent Eves 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3.00

COMEDY 0171 369 1731/ cc 344 4444 (24hrs) KEVIN WHATELY TIMOTHY WEST PETER VAUGHAN TONY HAYGARTH TIM HEALY TWELVE ANGRY MEN Directed by Harold Pinter Previews from 11 April Opens 22 April

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LONDON PALLADIUM BO/CC 0171 494 5020/344 4444 (£1 tkt serv chg) 420 0000 Grps 0171 413 3321 JIM DALE RETURNS TO THE WEST END "A MAJOR THEATRICAL EVENT" Daily Mail OLIVER! 2ND SPECTACULAR YEAR "LIONEL BART'S MASTERPIECE YOU CAN'T ASK FOR MORE" S.Times Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30 SOME GOOD SEATS AVAIL NOW FOR WEEKDAY PERFS

LYRIC 0171 494 5080/ 344 4444 (bkg fee) WINNER 95 & 96 OLIVIER AWARDS Dale Passy Best Choreography TAP DOGS Mon-Thurs 8.00, Fri & Sat 6.00 & 8.45 No perfs Fri 5th & Mon 8th April

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 0171 928 2252 Grps 0171 620 0741 24hr cc bkg fee 0171 420 0000 OLIVIER Ton't, Tomor 7.15 A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC Music & lyrics by Stephen Sondheim book by Hugh Wheeler LYTTELTON Ton't 7.30, Tomor 2.15 & 7.30 MARY STUART Friedrich Schiller in a new translation by Jeremy Sams COTTESLOE Ton't 7.30, Tomor 2.30 & 7.30 THE ENDS OF THE EARTH David Lan

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 BO 0171 405 0072 CC 0171 404 4079 24hr 0171 344 4444/420 0000 Grps 0171 413 3311/436 5588 THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER/ T.S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNING MUSICAL CATS Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00 LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION, PLEASE BE PROMPT. Bars open at 6.45 LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE.

OLD VIC 0171 928 7616/312 8034 "ALAN BENNETT'S SUPERB ADAPTATION" F.T. The Royal National Theatre's THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS "AN IRRESISTABLE PIECE OF THEATRE" LNR "A wonderful evening" F.T. "AN ABSOLUTE WINNER" Time Out Season ends 27th April Tues - Sat 7.30pm, Wed, Thurs & Sat mats 2.30pm LAST 4 WEEKS

PALACE THEATRE 0171-434 0909 cc 24hrs (bkg fee) 0171-344 4444 Grps 0171 413 3311 THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL LES MISERABLES NOW IN ITS 11TH RECORD-BREAKING YEAR Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30 Latecomers not admitted until the interval LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

PHOENIX BO/CC 0171 369 1733 /344 4444/420 0000 (fee) BEST MUSICAL Olivier/Drama Awards Plays & Players/Ivor Novello Awards WILLY RUSSELL'S BLOOD BROTHERS STEPHANIE LAWRENCE STEFAN DENNIS CARL WAYNE ...Brings the audience to its feet, and roaring its approval" D Mail Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 3 Sat 4

PICCADILLY 0171 369 1734 cc 24hrs 344 4444, Grps 312 1970/413 3321 "WINNER!" BEST MUSICAL Evening Standard Award '95 Jerry Herman & Michael Stewart's MACK & MABEL THE HOLLYWOOD ROMANCE Mon-Sat at 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat at 3.00 PLEASE NOTE NEW CURTAIN TIMES New Booking to 7 January '97

PLAYHOUSE 0171 839 4401 /0171 420 0000/0171 344 4444 SYLVIA SYMS HENRY McGEE LYNDA BARON RAY COONEY TREVOR BANNISTER PETER ELLIS RON ALDRIDGE & RODNEY BEWES IN RAY COONEY'S NEW COMEDY HIT FUNNY MONEY NOMINATED BEST COMEDY 1996 OLIVIER AWARDS "LAUGHS GALORE... A WINNER" D. Exp "Better than Feydeau... priceless" D. Tel Mon-Sat 8.00, Mats Thu 3.00, Sat 5.00 NOW BKG THRU 1996

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 447 5400 First Call 420 0100 (24hr Bkg fee) 344 4444 Groups 420 0200 Cameron Mackintosh presents MARTIN GUERRE A New Musical by BOUBLL & SCHONBERG FROM 21 JUNE Ticketholders for perfs prior to 21 June please contact Box Off

PRINCE OF WALES 839 5972/ 420 0000/ 344 4444 ELVIS RED PRICE PREVS NOW! Press Night 15 April at 7pm Mon-Thurs 8, Fri & Sat 5.30 & 8.30

QUEEN'S 494 5590/344 4444/ 420 0000 MICHAEL BALL MARIA FRIEDMAN In Sondheim/Lapine's Award-winning musical PASSION Mon-Sat 7.45, Mats Wed, Sat 3.00

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY LONDON (0171 638 8891) BARBICAN: THE TAMING OF THE SHREW previews from 4 April THE PIT: THE RELAPSE Tomor 7.15 STRATFORD (01789 295623) RST & SWAN: THE WINTER VISITORS' SEASON Ends 19 April

SAVOY 0171 836 8888 cc 0171 420 0100 (no bkg fee) ANGELA THORNE COMMUNICATING DOORS by ALAN AYCKBOURN "WONDERFULLY FUNNY AND GENUINELY SCARY" D.Tel Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00 Wed mat all seats £12

SHAFTESBURY 0171 379 5399 0171 413 3588 (24hr/no bkg fee) Groups 0171 413 3321 TOMMY PAUL KEATING as Tommy KIM WILDE as Mrs Walker "BREATHTAKINGLY IMAGINATIVE...UNMISSABLE"! Mon-Sat 8pm, Wed & Sat 3pm

ST MARTIN'S 0171 836 1443 (no bkg fee) 0171 420 0000 (bkg fee) 0171 344 4444 (bkg fee) Groups 0171 312 1994 (no bkg fee) Eves 8, Tues 2.45, Sat 5 & 8 44th Year of Agatha Christie's THE MOUSETRAP

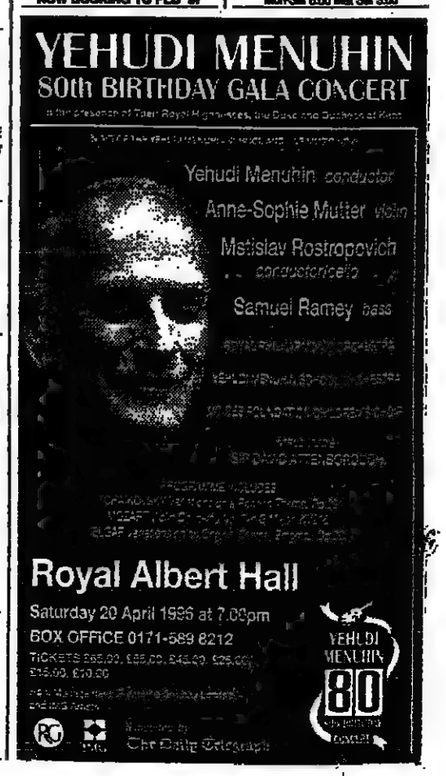
STRAND THEATRE Box Off & cc (no fee) 0171 930 8800 cc (bkg fee) 0171 344 4444/420 0000 Groups 0171 413 3321/0171 436 5588 *BUDDY* The Buddy Holly Story "BRILLIANT" Sun *BUDDY* "WONDERFUL STUFF" Sun Tel *BUDDY* Tues-Thurs 8.0 Fri 5.30 & 8.30 Sats 5.00 & 8.30, Suns 4.00 ALL SEATS 1/2 PRICE FRI 5.30 PERF 7th HEAVENLY YEAR

VAUDEVILLE 0171 836 9987 344 4444/420 0000 Julian Slade's SALAD DAYS Directed by NED SHERRIN "As light as strawberry" Times Previews from 17 April

VICTORIA PALACE BO & cc (no fee) 0171 834 1317 cc (bkg fee) 0171 344 4444/312 1998/497 1977 Groups 0171 312 1997 (no fee) /0171 436 5588 (bkg fee) WINNER 1996 OLIVIER AWARDS BEST MUSICAL *JOLSON* with BRIAN CONLEY *JOLSON* "A RESOUNDING HIT" Sunday Telegraph On Monday Nights Alan Stewart will play Jolson Evgs Mon-Sat 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3.00 NOW BOOKING TO FEB '97

WHITEHALL 369 1735/344 4444/ 420 0000 TRAINSPOTTING "One of the events of the year" Observer Tues-Fri at 8, Sat at 8.30 Mats Wed & Sat at 5, Sun at 4

WYNDHAMS 0171 369 1736 (no bkg fee) /344 4444 (bkg fee) MICHAEL GAMBON LIA WILLIAMS BEST PLAY Olivier Awards SKYLIGHT by DAVID HARE Directed by RICHARD EYRE "ONE OF THE PLAYS OF THE DECADE" Ind. Heard Tribune LAST 4 WEEKS Mon-Sat 8.00 Mat Sat 3.00



Hills proves the virtue of patience

Richard Evans meets a successful trainer amply rewarded by backing his judgment

Even the weather was in an April Fool's Day mood on the Faringdon Road gallops yesterday, high above the Lambourn Downs. The sun dared to peak through the clouds as several million pounds' worth of Barry Hills-trained two-year-olds braved winds which belonged more to the Arctic than a spring morning in England.

"This is a game of patience, I tell you," Hills, nattily dressed as ever in burgundy-coloured jacket, corduroy jodhpurs and polished brogues, said. "If you do too much with them in this weather it looks as though you have knocked them about and they look as though they have had it. They go back on you, and you can see it. You just have to be patient."

The same virtue applies to backing horses as well as training them and few handlers have been more successful than Hills down the years in masterminding successful gambles.

The monster touch he enjoyed on Frankincense in the 1968 Lincoln, which enabled him to set up as a trainer, has been well documented. His removal of £66,000 from bookmakers' satchels last season is not so well known. "I'll try to make it six figures this year," he chuckled. "I am looking forward to a good season."

As he celebrates his 59th birthday today, Hills has every reason to be optimistic. A courageous decision to build a £1 million state-of-the-art yard, which he moved into a year ago, was rewarded with 74 winners, just short of his combined total for the previous two seasons.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Hills sits snugly in the driving seat as he tests his horse power on the gallops near his Lambourn yard

Nine of his two-year-olds were included in the Free Handicap, among them the unbeaten Royal Applause, who became the first horse since Crocket in 1962 to land the Coventry Stakes, Gimcrack and Middle Park treble.

After the Maktoum Al-Maktoum-owned colt's stunning four-length success at Newmarket, Hills was openly pessimistic about the winner's chances of staying a mile this season. However, with the 2,000 Guineas just over four weeks away, he is now far more upbeat.

"Waajib [sire of Royal Applause] has quite a bit of stamina in his pedigree. All his immediate maternal line is fast speed, but there is Premonition down in the right-hand corner of the pedigree if you go far enough back. While he is a horse with outstanding ability, there is no reason why he should not stay, and it would not surprise me if he gets a mile. "He would certainly have won the Middle Park Stakes at Newmarket if it had been over seven furlongs that day. The 2,000 Guineas could be a very interesting race with him and Alhaarth. They are both outstanding horses with natural ability in terms of speed.

"I think Royal Applause has done very well over the winter. He had some warts last year, which were removed at the end of the season. He has strengthened up well and I could not be more pleased with him at this stage. It is unlikely he will run before Newmarket."

While most of the 130-strong string at Faringdon Place have had to endure the dullest — in terms of daylight — winter on record and bitter temperatures, five have been more fortunate.

Hills decided in mid-November on an Italian version of the Dubai experiment and sent a handful of horses plus staff to the warmer climes of Pisa. Circled and Warning Star arrived home at the weekend; Moody's Cat and April The Eighth will race in Italy later this month. Most importantly of all, My Branch will be flown back just in time for the 1,000 Guineas. "The proof of the pudding will be in the eating, but I shall definitely do it again next year," he said.

The "enthusiastic as ever" Further Flight, winner of the last five runnings of the Jockey Club Cup and now almost white in colour, may reappear at Haydock on Saturday and heads a select band of older horses.

Moonax, winner of the 1994 St Leger, will run where the conditions suit him — he must have give in the ground. "I think he is an exciting prospect again, full of enthusiasm and moving like a dream. Hopefully, he'll run in the John Porter Stakes, Yorkshire Cup and Ascot Gold Cup if the conditions are right."

Of the three-year-olds, Busy Flight, second in the Horris Hill Stakes at Newbury and a possible Derby runner, Mubhij, winner of the Cornwallis Stakes, and Story Line, a Cheshire Oaks candidate, received favourable mention along with Gold Disc, Gulliver, Nereus, Polinesso, Proud Look, Sinking Sun, Tawkil and Wilawander.

And, no doubt, there will be others which may tempt Hills into putting his money where his mouth is. "I haven't had a bet on the Flat yet. At Doncaster, mine were skimpy-priced ones and there is no point in backing them."

On and off the track, the patience of Hills looks set to pay handsome dividends in the months ahead.

RACING AHEAD

Robert Wright suggests the best value in the ante-post market

2,000 GUINEAS

Betting forecast 2-1

GUIDE TO THE LEADING PRICES

	Coral	Hills	Ladbrokes	Tote
Bosra Sham	2-1	5-2	2-1	9-4
Blue Duster	10-3	7-2	7-2	7-2
Bint Shadayid	7-1	7-1	7-1	9-1
A Votre Sante	10-1	16-1	10-1	20-1
Mezzogiorno	25-1	25-1	20-1	25-1
Ruznama	25-1	25-1	20-1	25-1
Bint Salsabil	20-1	20-1	25-1	20-1
Sea Spray	33-1	25-1	25-1	20-1
Dance Sequence	33-1	33-1	33-1	33-1
Silk Masque	33-1	33-1	33-1	33-1
With Fascination	33-1	33-1	33-1	33-1
Kerry Ring	25-1	40-1	40-1	50-1

After two thrilling National Hunt Festivals, it is with almost indecent haste that the cosseted Flat horses take centre stage. Nonetheless, with the first Guineas trials less than a week away, the bookmakers will shortly be rearranging their prices. At this stage, Alhaarth looks hard to oppose in the 2,000 Guineas, and the fillies' equivalent makes more appeal as a betting medium.

Bosra Sham deservedly heads the market. She was unbeaten in two starts last season, and was impressive when beating Bint Shadayid by 3½ lengths in the group one Fillies' Mile at Ascot in September. Her trainer, Henry Cecil, will be keener than ever to make a good start to this year after losing the patronage of Sheikh Mohammed, and she will be ready to do herself justice. However, 5-2 a month before the race is not attractive.

Blue Duster was last season's other outstanding filly. She won all four of her races, showing an excellent turn of foot when winning the Cheveley Park at Newmarket. The problem for her is stamina. While she will probably stay seven furlongs, she has so much speed that a strongly-run mile is likely to prove beyond her.

Bint Shadayid, trained last term by John Dunlop, has spent the last few months in Dubai in the care of the Godolphin team. The benefits of a winter in the sun were there for all to see last season, with the exploits of Lammtarra and Halling. She appeared not to stay when beaten by Bosra Sham last year, but will have strengthened up considerably and has sound prospects of reversing the form. At 7-1, **BINT SHADAYID** represents a solid each-way bet.

NOTTINGHAM

THUNDERER

2.00 Flahuli
2.30 Joint Venture
3.00 Splicing
3.30 Maltesamia
4.00 Iamus
4.30 Battleship Bruce
5.00 Antarctic Storm

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.00 IAMUS.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.00 LOOSE TALK (nap). 4.30 Battleship Bruce.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES.74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 . B West (4) 86

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; J if jumps. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in what race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.00 LANGWITH SELLING HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £2,070: 1m 1f 213yd) (15 runners)

101 (12) 001-00 BELLE'S BOY 36 (G) (Mrs M Palling) B Palling 9-7 . . . T Sprake 85
102 (13) 04005-5 FLAHULI 63 (H Hayes) R Hannon 9-2 . . . Dane O'Neill (3) 91
103 (15) 530-641 STILL HERE 18 (G) (A Collins) M Heaton-Ellis 8-13 . . . A Clark 91
104 (1) 000- SWEET AMORET 202 (R Baker) P Howling 8-11 . . . R Cochrane –
105 (6) 26600- LA HAYE SAINTE 176 (A MacEllaway) D Cosgrove 8-8 . . . M Wigham 88
106 (9) 000000- REEF RAIDER 159 (B (Speedfit Group)) N Tinkler 8-1 . . . – 80
107 (11) 0600- DISPOL CONQUEROR 169 (W Imson) G Oldroyd 8-1 . . . L Charnock 80
108 (4) 600- ESPERTO 173 (Mrs A Holman-Chappell) J Pearce 8-1 . . . G Bardwell 80
109 (3) 05000- ROYAL RAPPORT 193 (R Bedding) B McMahon 8-1 . . . G Carter 85
110 (2) 0060-6 DIGWANA 70 (M Evans) T Jones 8-1 . . . A Whelan (3) 88
111 (7) 00-0653 ONEFOURSEVEN 18 (B) (J Roundtree) S Bowring 8-0 . . . N Carlisle 94
112 (5) 00000- ESKIMO KISS 173 (Mrs A Scott) M Fetherston-Godley 7-10 . . . J Quinn 83
113 (14) 0-0066 RADMORE BRANDY 43 (J Salter) N Littmoden 7-10 . . . J Bramhill (7) 86
114 (8) 6-50 KAI'S LADY 39 (Mrs S Campion) S Campion 7-10 . . . P Fessey (5) –
115 (10) 6004 BELACQUA 10 (B) (Mrs J Chapman) D Chapman 7-10 . . . Darren Moffatt (3) 83

Long handicap: Radmore Brandy 7-8, Kai's Lady 7-0, Belacqua 6-11

BETTING: 3-1 Still Here, 4-1 Flahuli, 5-1 Onefourseven, 8-1 Digwana, Reef Raider, 10-1 Belle's Boy, 12-1 others.

1995: BOLDLY GO 8-3 J Quinn (7-1) W Musson 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

BELLE'S BOY best effort, beat Balros 1½l in 10-runner maiden at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 100yd). FLAHULI, about 7¾l 5th of 10 to Thornton Estate in handicap at Lingfield (AW, 1m 2f). STILL HERE beat Sir Oi Bother head in 6-runner apprentices handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 1f 79yd) with ONEFOURSEVEN (3lb better off) 6l 3rd. ESPERTO best effort when about 7¾l 6th of 8 to Mons in maiden at Newmarket (6f, good to firm). DIGWANA 10¼l 6th of 9 to Rockadams Charm in seller at Lingfield (AW, 1m). ESKIMO KISS 14l 19th of 27 to Domettes in seller at Newmarket (7f, good to firm) with ESPERTO +1l 23rd.
Selection: STILL HERE

2.30 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND CINDERHILL MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,176: 5f 13yd) (5 runners)

201 (2) BOLD WELCOME (J Ashby) J Wharton 9-0 . . . J Quinn –
202 (1) 2 JOINT VENTURE 12 (Mrs B Bell) B Meehan 9-0 . . . B Doyle –
203 (4) 6 MUJOVA 12 (J Graham) R Hollinshead 9-0 . . . K Darley –
204 (3) 6 NERVOUS REX 10 (BF) (M Payton) W Muir 9-0 . . . J Reid –
205 (5) WEET EES GIRL (Ed Weatman (Haulage & Storage) Ltd) P Evans 8-9 L Dettori –

BETTING: Even Joint Venture, 3-1 Nervous Rex, 7-2 Weet Ees Girl, 5-1 Mujova, 10-1 Bold Welcome

1995: DUNGEON MASTER 9-0 R Hughes (5-1) M Channon 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

BOLD WELCOME (foaled Feb 10; cost 35,000gns) Half-brother by Most Welcome to useful sprinter Lennox Lewis, dam unraced sister to listed winning sprinter Tadwan. JOINT VENTURE 4l 2nd of 7 to Indian Spark in Brucklesby Stakes at Doncaster (5f, good) with MUJOVA 9l 6th. NERVOUS REX about 9l 6th of 12 to Kingsinger in maiden auction at Doncaster (5f, soft). WEET EES GIRL (foaled May 24; cost 5,000gns). Half-sister by Common Grounds to juvenile 7f winner Kastamouni, dam juvenile 7f winner in France.
Selection: JOINT VENTURE

3.00 FLYING HORSE MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O fillies: £3,720: 5f 13yd) (12 runners)

331 (5) BAG AND A BIT (P Boggis) B Meehan 8-11 . . . M Tebbutt –
332 (7) ELEANOR MAY (Mrs J Hazell) T Barron 8-11 . . . J Fortune –
333 (2) 0050-40 GOVERNORS DREAM 73 (P Saunders) Mrs N Macauley 8-11 . . . D Biggs –
334 (10) 6 LOOSE TALK 10 (Mrs S Davis) W Jarvis 8-11 . . . T Quinn 85
335 (4) MADRINA (Skyline Racing Ltd) J Berry 8-11 . . . J Carroll –
336 (6) 3254-0 MARJORIE ROSE 12 (Linksan Ltd) A Bailey 8-11 . . . D Wright (3) 89
337 (3) 50-0450 NAPIER STAR 24 (P Heslop) Mrs N Macauley 8-11 . . . C Teague (5) 72
338 (12) NICOLA'S PRINCESS (J Graham) B McMahon 8-11 . . . G Carter –
339 (12) SOLO SYMPHONY 367 (Mrs B Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 . . . J Reid 92
340 (8) 3- SPLICING 209 (T Hirschkind) W Haggas 8-11 . . . M Hills 94
341 (3) 2430- WATCH THE FIRE (E Carter) J Banks 8-11 . . . J Quinn –
342 (11) WYSE FOLLY (The Boys Club) R Bastiman 8-11 . . . A Culhane –

BETTING: 2-1 Solo Symphony, 7-2 Marjorie Rose, 9-2 Splicing, 5-1 Madrina, 8-1 Loose Talk, 10-1 others.

1995: KARINA HEIGHTS 8-11 J Reid (10-1) J Watts 17 ran

FORM FOCUS

GOVERNORS DREAM about 7½l 4th of 6 to Happy Partner in maiden auction at Lingfield (AW, 5f) on penultimate start. LOOSE TALK 13l 6th of 15 to Green Barries in maiden at Doncaster (6f, soft). MARJORIE ROSE 8½l 4th of 6 to Tamnia in maiden at Haydock (6f, good to firm) on penultimate start. NAPIER STAR best effort this year, 7l 4th of 10 to Dragonjoy in seller at Southwell (AW, 7f). SOLO SYMPHONY 3½l 3rd of 13 to Miss Bigwig in maiden at Warwick (5f, good to soft). SPLICING two heads 3rd of 7 to Ramsey Hope in conditions race at Ripon (6f, good to firm) on penultimate start.
Selection: SOLO SYMPHONY

NOTTINGHAM SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J Banks, 3 winners from 12 runners, 25.0%; W Haggas, 3 from 15, 20.0%; G Wragg, 4 from 27, 14.8%; T Barron, 4 from 27, 14.8%; P Evans, 6 from 41, 14.6%; P Walwyn, 4 from 28, 14.3%.

JOCKEYS: Pat Eddery, 18 winners from 78 rides, 23.1%; W Carson, 24 from 133, 18.0%; L Dettori, 22 from 124, 17.7%; T Sprake, 7 from 45, 15.6%; T Quinn, 13 from 84, 15.5%; D Harrison, 9 from 60, 15.0%.

3.30 BASTHORPE HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £3,548: 6f 15yd) (22 runners)

401 (12) 048- SEA DANZIG 151 (P Cook) P Howling 9-7 . . . R Cochrane 82
402 (22) 003412- MULLAGH HILL LAD 123 (B) (The Bramble Partnership) B McMahon 9-7 G Carter 91
403 (17) 63150- PHARAOH'S JOY 197 (CD,F) (Pyramid Racing Club) J Payne 9-7 M Tebbutt 80
404 (9) 51453- GWESPYR 260 (B) (Lord Matthew) J Berry 9-7 . . . J Carroll 85
405 (3) 2010- SWEET NATURE 173 (D,G) (Mrs D Allen) W Jarvis 9-7 . . . J Reid 80
406 (5) 412185 BOFFY 27 (D,G) (S Baugh) S Baugh 9-6 . . . W Lord 97
407 (18) 0060-0 LONGHILL BOY 8 (B) (Village Services Ltd) B Meehan 9-5 . . . B Doyle 88
408 (14) 383-8 MAY QUEEN MEGAN 8 (S Harrison) Mrs A King 9-1 . . . A Garth 83
409 (10) 404450- MERANTI 144 (J Stenberg) S Dow 9-0 . . . T Quinn 89
410 (11) 34118- TYMEERA 202 (C,F) (Gainbrook Associates) B Palling 8-12 . . . T Sprake 91
411 (7) 004- NORTH HARBOUR 169 (T Carr) R Hannon 8-12 . . . Dane O'Neill (3) 82
412 (15) 008000- VEESEY 161 (Mrs V Bampton) John Berry 8-11 . . . M Fenton 84
413 (11) 554500- HARRET'S BEAU 192 (B) (P Mellor) M W Easterby 8-10 . . . M Birch 83
414 (4) 016-006 MICKEY ZANTY 49 (J G) (T Hancock) J L Harris 8-10 . . . K Darley 87
415 (16) 6230-60 ROTHLEY RUP 78 (Cream Racing) J Wharton 8-9 . . . P Robinson 86
416 (19) 030200- RUSTIC BOMB 199 (Mrs J Tait) J Wharton 8-8 . . . A Mackay 85
417 (2) 2100- THE BUTTERWICK KID 183 (B) (The Butterwick Kids Club) R Fahey 8-8 A Culhane 96
418 (20) 0020-12 MAITEAMIA 17 (B,D,G) (Mrs T Smith) S Bowring 8-6 . . . C Teague (5) 77
419 (2) 450300- NORTHERN CLAN 197 (Mrs E Smith) M W Easterby 8-2 . . . Dale Gibson 88
420 (13) 00-2153 BRIGANDONE 41 (B) (S Sadler) S Bowring 8-2 . . . N Carlisle 90
421 (21) 00805- MAGICAL MOMENT 182 (E Spain) N Tinkler 7-10 . . . Kim Tinkler 82
422 (6) 904- CROSWITH STICK 358 (Mrs J Mellors) P Felgate 7-10 . . . D Wright (3) 87

BETTING: 7-1 Mullagh Hill Lad, 8-1 Sea Danzig, Boffy, Meranti, 10-1 Maiteamia, Night Harmony, 12-1 The Butterwick Kid, Tymeera, 14-1 others.

1995: TEMERAE 8-8 L Wainer (7-1) E Murray-Smith 19 ran

FORM FOCUS

MULLAGH HILL LAD neck 2nd of 12 to Krystal Max in handicap at Southwell (AW, 5f) with BRIGANDONE (9lb better off) 7l 9th. PHARAOH'S JOY best effort, beat Yuppy Girl 3l in 11-runner maiden auction over course and distance (good to firm). SWEET NATURE best Thorda 3l in 12-runner maiden auction at Wolverhampton (AW, 6f) on penultimate start with MULLAGH HILL LAD (5lb better off) 14l 9th. BOFFY ½l 2nd of 6 to Gi La High in handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 5f) on penultimate start with MONKEY ZANTY (9lb better off) 1½l 6th. MAY QUEEN MEGAN 1¼l 3rd of 11 to Village Native in maiden auction at Folkestone (6f, good to firm) on penultimate start. MERANTI best effort, 4½l 4th of 18 to Eastern Paradise in maiden at Brighton (6f, good) with LONGHILL BOY (5lb worse off) 6½l 9th. TYMEERA completed double, beat Hot Magestic 1½l in 10-runner claimer here (5f, good to firm) on penultimate start. THE BUTTERWICK KID best effort, beat Standown neck in 11-runner claimer at Beverley (5f, good). MAITEAMIA neck 2nd of 9 to Miss Offaly in handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 7f).
Selection: THE BUTTERWICK KID

4.00 DENNIS FIDLER MAIDEN STAKES
(Div I: 3-Y-O: £3,460: 1m 54yd) (12 runners)

501 (8) ABSOLUTE UTOPIA (Malcolm Al Maktoum) E Dunlop 9-0 . . . K Darley –
502 (9) BREYDON (P Rosborough) M Tompkins 9-0 . . . P Robinson –
503 (10) 04022- DECISION MAKER 168 (Beechtown Syndicate) R Hannon 9-0 Dane O'Neill (3) 77
504 (3) D J CAT (J O'Malley) W Muir 9-0 . . . – –
505 (5) 4- HENRY ISLAND 115 (H Morriss) G Wragg 9-0 . . . M Hills –
506 (2) 00- HE'S GOT WINGS 161 (P Hicks) C Brittain 9-0 . . . M Fenton –
507 (1) HIGH BAROQUE (M Tabor) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0 . . . J Reid –
508 (7) 0024- IAMUS 154 (Hesmonds Stud) P Haslam 9-0 . . . Pat Eddery 88
509 (4) THREADNEEDLE (The Queen) Lord Huntingdon 9-0 . . . D Harrison –
510 (11) 0- ALWAROA 168 (H Al Maktoum) R Armstrong 8-9 . . . W Carson –
511 (5) 0- DARING VENTURE 293 (The Prospectors Club) T Naughton 8-9 . . . – –
512 (12) YOUNG ANNABEL (Frederick Sons) C Dwyer 8-9 . . . M Wigham –

BETTING: 7-4 Iamus, 3-1 High Baroque, 9-2 Decision Maker, 8-1 Absolute Utopia, 10-1 Threadneedle, D J Cat, 12-1 others.

1995: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

ABSOLUTE UTOPIA. Brother by Mr Prospector to winning miler Touch A Million; dam high-class miler BREYDON. By Be My Guest; dam, 1m 2f winner, is half-sister to Teamoss. DECISION MAKER 1¾l 2nd of 18 to Mystic Knight in maiden at Salisbury (1m, good to soft). HENRY ISLAND about 15l 4th of 13 to Kissing Gate in maiden at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 100yd). HE'S GOT WINGS 24l 11th of 12 to Lady Carla in maiden at Leicester (1m, firm). HIGH BAROQUE. Sister by High Estate to 1m 2f winner Dancing Heights; dam unraced. IAMUS about 3¾l last of 4 to Beauchamp King in the group I Racing Post Trophy at Doncaster (1m, good to firm). THREADNEEDLE. Brother by Dancing Connection to 1m 4f winner Magic Junction; dam 1m winner ALWAROA 15l 10th of 19 to Sky For Gold in maiden at Chepstow (7f, soft).
Selection: IAMUS

4.30 LANGWORTH APPRENTICES HANDICAP
(£2,095: 1m 54yd) (13 runners)

601 (7) 031006- ARTFUL DANE 187 (D,F) (S Lansdown Racing) M Heaton-Ellis 4-10-0 J Fowle 82
602 (1) 146000- GLOWING JADE 161 (D,F,G) (G Eadick) J Glover 6-9-12 . . . Victoria Appleby 80
603 (8) 40F25-4 BATTLESHIP BRUCE 8 (C,D,G,S) (T Foreman) N Callaghan 4-9-10 . . . R Smith 84
604 (5) 005/1-6 DANA POINT 7 (D,F) (J Baggott) T Barron 4-9-8 . . . J Edmunds 80
605 (10) 122216 MAPLE BAY 32 (D,G) (R Matthews) A Bailey 7-9-8 . . . Angela Gollmore 89
606 (2) 56-4151 PINE ESSENCE 15 (D,F,G) (K Meynell) J Eyre 5-9-10 . . . P Doe 80
607 (9) 300-000 ROAR ON TOUR 50 (B,D,G) (Mrs S Murray) Mrs M Reveley 7-9-7 . . . – 80
608 (13) 050000 EAST BARNS 5 (B,C,D,F,G,S) (Hexham B'stock Racing) S Gollings 8-8-5 C Scudder 80
609 (3) 13-4020 JALMAD 31 (D,BF,S) (Bressom) B McMahon 4-9-6 . . . T Field 82
610 (4) 03165-6 CICERONE 88 (D,F,G,S) (Dr C Ashpole) J L Harris 6-8-5 . . . D Sweeney 84
611 (11) 6-30050 PARONOMASIA 19 (V) (P Barrett) J L Harris 4-7-10 . . . R Mullen 87
612 (12) 600- LITTLE PILGRIM 148 (R Page) T Jones 3-7-10 . . . P Clarke 98
613 (6) 55-0000 PATS DELIGHT 31 (P Fennelly,N Brook) S Coulthup 4-7-10 . . . – 78

Long handicap: Paronomasia 7-6, Little Pilgrim 7-4, Pats Delight 7-4.

BETTING: 4-1 Battleship Bruce, 9-2 Maple Bay, 5-1 Pine Essence, Dana Point, 8-1 Glowing Jade, Artful Dane, East Barns 10-1 others.

1995: MOFERR 3-9-0 Jo Hunnam (9-2) L Cumani 20 ran

FORM FOCUS

ARTFUL DANE 9l 6th of 16 to Sharp Consul in handicap at Lingfield (7f, soft). GLOWING JADE best effort last season, beat Sycamore Lodge ½l in 14-runner apprentices handicap at Doncaster (7f, good). BATTLESHIP BRUCE about ¾l 4th of 16 to Sea Spouse in handicap at Folkestone (7f, good to soft). DANA POINT beat Mary's Case ½l in apprentices handicap at Redcar (1m, good to firm) on penultimate start. MAPLE BAY beat Mister Fire Eyes ½l in handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 1f 79yd) on penultimate start. PINE ESSENCE beat Thalaros 5l in apprentices handicap at Southwell (AW, 1m). Earlier beat JALMAD (16lb better off) head in 13-runner handicap at Goodwood (AW, 7f). CICERONE best effort last season, beat Mighty Kingdom head in 19-runner apprentices claiming handicap at Leicester (1m, firm). LITTLE PILGRIM best effort, about 10½l 6th of 11 to Midnight Blue in maiden at Ascot (6f, good to soft).
Selection: DANA POINT (nap)

5.00 DENNIS FIDLER MAIDEN STAKES
(Div II: 3-Y-O: £3,460: 1m 54yd) (11 runners)

1 (11) 00- ANTARCTIC STORM 162 (J Strauss) F Dunlop 9-0 . . . T Quinn 89
2 (7) 3- BOWLED OVER 187 (R Cyzer) C Cyzer 9-0 . . . D Biggs 91
3 (10) 50- CLASSIC COLOURS 160 (Classic Bloodstock Plc) S Williams 9-0 . . . A Mackay 83
4 (6) FOLLOWTHE ALISTARS (The Alistars Club) T Naughton 9-0 . . . – –
5 (1) 00- FURSAN 202 (H Al Maktoum) N Graham 9-0 . . . W Carson 85
6 (4) 00- LAHIK 252 (D Ivory) K Ivory 9-0 . . . G Scally (7) 67
7 (8) 0- NEEDLE MATCH 158 (P Pritchard) C Wall 9-0 . . . – –
8 (5) 666000- RICHARD HOUSE LAD 140 (D Mowat) R Hollinshead 9-0 . . . W Ryan 76
9 (3) SHARP COMMAND (G Ward) R Armstrong 9-0 . . . J Reid –
10 (2) 60- SHU GAA 188 (A Al Jallen) W Haggas 9-0 . . . R Cochrane 92
11 (9) 50- FRO 291 (Miss L Elliott) T Naughton 8-9 . . . – 78

BETTING: 3-1 Shu Gaa, Bowled Over, 4-1 Antarctic Storm, 5-1 Sharp Command, 8-1 Needle Match, 10-1 Followthe Alistars, Fro, 12-1 others.

1995: NO CORRESPONDING DIVISION

FORM FOCUS

ANTARCTIC STORM 6l 8th of 21 to Projecteur in maiden at Newmarket (6f, good to firm) on penultimate start. BOWLED OVER 5l and neck 3rd of 11 to Norwegian Blue in maiden at Lingfield (6f, soft). CLASSIC COLOURS about 14l 5th of 9 to Crystal in maiden at Haydock (7f, good to soft) on penultimate start. FURSAN 11l 11th of 19 to Stargazer in maiden at Yarmouth (7f, good). LAHIK 14l 8th of 12 to Truancy in maiden here (6f, good to firm). NEEDLE MATCH 12l last of 8 to Fortuna in maiden at Newmarket (6f, good to firm). RICHARD HOUSE LAD best effort last season, 13l 6th of 19 to Dushanbe in maiden over course and distance (good to firm). SHU GAA 6½l 8th of 18 to Mystic Knight in maiden at Salisbury (1m, good to soft).
Selection: BOWLED OVER

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Exeter

Going: good

2.10 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, Paloosanto (Mr A Farrant, 2-1); 2, Garato (10-11 fav); 3, Bayline Star (50-1). 12 ran. NR: Bootleg Producer. Nk, 3l. M Pipe. Tote: £3.60; £1.10, £1.50, £4.00. DF: £1.60. Trio: £45.80. CSF: £4.11.

2.40 (2m 2f hdle) 1, Chicodari (R Johnson, 9-4); 2, Devmar (5-2); 3, Kippanour (11-8 fav). 4 ran. NR: Tonys Gift. 7l, 6l. O Nicholson. Tote: £3.10; DF: £7.50. CSF: £7.35.

3.10 (2m 3f 110yd ch) 1, River Lossie (J A McCarthy, 5-2 fav); 2, No Pain No Gain (3-1); 3, Abavard (20-1). 10 ran. 14l, nk. C Egerton. Tote: £3.60; £1.60, £1.70, £3.80. DF: £4.50. Trio: £50.80. CSF: £10.38.

3.40 (2m 2f hdle) 1, Molly Mary Doll (N Mann, 13-2); 2, Habusha (5-2 fav); 3, Alice's Mirror (9-1). 14 ran. NR: Deards Smasher. Hd, 3l. S Mellor. Tote: £6.40; £1.60, £2.30, £2.50. DF: £12.70. Trio: £22.60. CSF: £22.52. Tricast: £140.35.

4.10 (2m 2f ch) 1, Pete The Parson (M A Fitzgerald, 15-8 fav); 2, Medinas Swan Song (100-30); 3, Super Tactics (4-1). 6 ran. 1½l, 13l. J Old. Tote: £1.90; £1.60, £2.50. DF: £4.50. CSF: £7.84.

4.40 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, Smuggler's Point (D O'Sullivan, 5-1); 2, Nordic Valley (4-1); 3, Sheep Stealer (66-1). Nordic Mana (100-30 fav). 15 ran. 2½l, ½l. R O'Sullivan. Tote: £7.40; £5.10, £2.20, £17.50. DF: £21.90. Trio: £1,296.60. CSF: £26.97. Tricast: £1,167.01.

5.10 (2m 3l 110yd hdle) 1, Oban (Mr J Culloty, 9-4); 2, Amber Spark (14-1); 3, Blessed Oliver (14-1). Whirly 5-4 fav. 13 ran. Hd, 1¾l. Miss H Knight. Tote: £3.60; £1.10, £3.70, £2.10. DF: £34.70. Trio: £18.00. CSF: £90.03.

Jackpot: £11,470.40.
Placepot: £40.70. Quadpot: £18.00.

Kelso

Going: good to firm (good in places)

2.00 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Balhemoch (P Niven, 11-10 fav); 2, Adamatic. (4-1); 3, Singing Sand (12-1). 9 ran. NR: Lucker. 4l, 2l. T Easterby. Tote: £2.00; £2.40, £1.30, £2.10. DF: £5.80. Trio: £17.60. CSF: £8.98.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: MAITEAMIA (3.30 Nottingham)
Next best: Iamus (4.00 Nottingham)

2.30 (3m 1f ch) 1, Howcleuch (B Storey, 4-1 fav); 2, Cool Weather (7-1); 3, Russian Castle (6-1). 11 ran. ½l, 3½l. K Oliver. Tote: £3.90; £1.40, £2.70, £2.30. DF: £13.90. Trio: £31.60. CSF: £30.12.

3.00 (2m 6f 110yd hdle) 1, Erzadjan (P Niven, 11-8 fav); 2, Shannon Glen (20-1); 3, Coqui Lane (15-2). 10 ran. 1¾l, 3l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £2.40; £1.40, £4.80, £2.30. DF: £29.90. Trio: £37.30. CSF: £25.99. Tricast: £139.80.

3.30 (3m 1f ch) 1, Abercromby Comet (Miss S Forster, 7-1); 2, Worthy Spark (11-4 fav); 3, Damnification (6-1). 11 ran. 7l, 15l. S Shirley-Beaven. Tote: £9.00; £2.50, £1.80, £2.20. DF: £26.40. Trio: £41.90. CSF: £34.90.

4.00 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Miss Greenyards (D Parker, 12-1); 2, Diddy Rymer (8-1); 3, Stylish Rose (11-2). Shonara's Way 3-1 fav. 11 ran. 11l, nk. A Whillans. Tote: £17.90; £2.50, £2.30, £3.10. DF: £60.70. Trio: £428.40. CSF: £98.09. Tricast: £546.09.

4.30 (3m 1f ch) 1, Royal Jester (Mr C Storey, 5-2; Private Handicapper's top rating); 2, Off The Bru (9-1); 3, Hedley Mill (9-4 fav). 11 ran. 4l, 3½l. Mrs J Storey. Tote: £3.40; £1.40, £2.60, £2.10. DF: £11.10. Trio: £21.00. CSF: £26.45.

5.00 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Ballon (B Storey, 3-1); 2, Samarian (9-4); 3, Stay Awake (15-8 fav). 4 ran. 11l, 1l. M Dods. Tote: £3.90. DF: £7.30. CSF: £9.48.

Placepot: £46.50. Quadpot: £42.30.

Southwell

Going: standard

2.20 (7f) 1, Call Me (D McKeown, 4-1); 2, Mels Baby (4-1); 3, Cherry Garden (5-2). Sharmood 9-4 fav. 7 ran. 6l, 1½l. C Thornton. Tote: £4.10; £1.70, £3.50. DF: £9.60. CSF: £20.39.

2.50 (6f) 1, Amoeba (P Fessey, 7-2); 2, Backhander (10-1); 3, Jolly Hokey (33-1). Melody Wheel 9-4 fav. 7 ran. NR: Boost, Bowlers Boy. 9l, 1½l. J Berry. Tote: £3.80; £2.10, £1.70. DF: £17.00. Trio: £39.50. CSF: £31.72.

3.20 (7f) 1, Elton Ledger (J Tate, 7-4 fav); 2, Peacefull Reply (25-1); 3, Tilly Owl (12-1). 11 ran. Hd, 1½l. Mrs N Macauley. Tote: £2.80; £1.20, £7.90, £3.60. DF: £51.40. Trio: £223.70. CSF: £42.44.

3.50 (1m 3f) 1, Mister Aspecto (J Weaver, 100-30); 2, Dancing Cavalier (11-4); 3, Sings Perilous (15-8 fav). 5 ran. 1¼l, 1½l. M Johnston. Tote: £2.80; £1.30, £1.70. DF: £3.90. CSF: £11.99.

4.20 (1m 4f) 1, Forzair (J Edmunds, 4-6 fav); 2, Anisop (5-2); 3, Rivel Queen (12-1). 8 ran. 3l, 13l. S Bowring. Tote: £1.70; £1.60, £1.10, £2.50. DF: £1.70. CSF: £2.83. Winner sold for 8,000gns.

4.50 (1m) 1, Awesome Venture (C Munday, 15-2); 2, Thaleros (7-2 fav); 3, David James' Girl (8-1). 14 ran. Hd, 2½l. M Chapman. Tote: £8.70; £3.50, £1.80, £2.10. DF: £22.20. Trio: £18.10. CSF: £34.18. Tricast: £215.16.

Placepot: £168.10. Quadpot: £4.00.

FOLKESTONE

THUNDERER

2.10 MONKS SOHAM (nap). 2.40 King's Gold. 3.10 Smiling Chief. 3.40 Simply. 4.10 Sorbiere. 4.40 Royal Ruler.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

2.10 ROTHER NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,889 2m 4f 110yd) (10 runners)

1 0-U1 SON OF A GUNNER 22 (D,S) J Neville 5-11-7 Mr J Culloty (5) (3)
2 0P BLUNDSEN BOY 22 J Gifford 6-11-0 . . . P Hide 88
3 -061 CIRCUS COLOURS 18 (F) J Jenkins 6-11-0 . . . A P McCoy 97
4 COUNTRY STAR 156F

Bordeaux prospering from Intertoto connection

Rob Hughes
Overseas Football

When Bordeaux take on Slavia Prague in the first leg of their Uefa Cup semi-final in the Czech Republic tonight, the temptation is to suppose that the French know how to make the finer pickings of Europe, let alone of grapes to bottle. They conquered AC Milan in the last round, they came from two goals down to do it, and they have persevered to this illustrious stage from beginnings that the English turned up their noses at — from the Intertoto Cup.

That, remember, was the extra competition inflicted on the lesser clubs of Europe to fill the idle three weeks or so of the summer. England entered, but then Tottenham Hotspur and Wimbledon put in their youth and reserve teams, incurring such wrath from Uefa, the governing body of European football, that the clubs were not only fined, but England is also to receive fewer places in Europe next season for "ungentlemanly conduct".

But to Bordeaux, who started on July 1 and came the long route through Europe, eliminating ten teams — among them Eintracht Frankfurt, Karlsruhe, Rotor Volgograd and Real Betis — there may be poison in the vine. For, though they have reaped so much from the competition that already France has a sixth share of the Sw Fr 6.5 million (about £3.5 million) Intertoto revenues from marketing and television, their place in the French first division is in peril.

They lie just above the relegation placings and if, through the extra load of meandering through Europe, they should eventually go down, what would the price of a possible Uefa Cup final against either Barcelona or Bayern Munich really be worth?

Yet let us not be churlish. The Bordeaux club has in recent years resurrected itself from a murky past, its former corrupt administrators jailed and exorcised from the sport. Somehow, for a team reputedly without stars, they possess three players who can do more than Cantona and Ginola — find favour with the French national team manager.

At left back, Bixente Lizarazu has had such adventurous progress in France's colours that Arsenal are reputedly about to recruit him. Arsenal are also one of several English clubs coveting Zinedine Zidane, a left-sided player who floats *à la* Cantona, who is not easy to categorise either as an attacker or a midfield player, whose quality on the ball, and vision off it, have played a magnetic part in France achieving an all-time national record of 20 games without defeat.

It is because of the likes of these Bordeaux players that Aime Jacquet, the France coach, asks why he should tear up the teamwork, the understanding, the loyalty in his Blues, to accommodate two players exiled in England. Jacquet adds that he does not share the constant high opinions that he hears from this side of the Channel of the pair.

Ginola is right out of his thinking, but even Jacquet admits that Cantona may eventually prove irresistible. The Manchester United talisman may be scheduled for a game against Finland in May, and that will be his one opportunity to force a place in the European championship squad.

But what is home-grown in Bordeaux, and augmented by Richard Witchge, from Holland, plus a Brazilian and a Bosnian, appears to have shown the folly of England. The Premier League was not alone in pooh-poohing the Intertoto misadventure. It is a competition too far, filling in the precious weeks of respite for athletes committed to programmes that we would never submit animals to. And yet Uefa can and do point to two facts. First, while Spain and Italy never did enter the competition, it was England who put in three entries (Sheffield Wednesday were the others) and then insulted the spirit of the thing.

The French? They question in sport, just as they do in the European Union, whether the insufferable English really do want in or out. If it is in, then, borrowing the words of Mae West, the French success in Bordeaux would seem to imply: "Too much of a good thing is simply wonderful."

While they fill their 30,000 capacity stadium, another new beginning is scheduled to start across the wider sea, the Major League Soccer (MLS) in the United States, on Saturday.

This time, after the ill-fated NASL, which collapsed through lack of commitment and desire in 1984, MLS has the profits from the World Cup as a starter, has commitment promised to Fifa, the world governing body, for granting it the World Cup and has a very interesting and withering philosophy towards Englishmen.

"We haven't really looked there," Sunil Gulati, the deputy commissioner for the new league, and the man who has directed recruitment policy which has gathered talented players from Africa, Europe, Asia and Latin America, said. And while English players who went to the NASL and treated it as a holiday were blamed for the collapse of the old, there is not one British player invited to the new.

Frank Stapleton is the coach to New England Revolution, the Boston franchise which has an Italian, Giueseppe Galderisi, and the returning Alexi Lalas, and David McCreery, the former Manchester United and Newcastle United player, is also instrumental in recruitment. But Gulati concludes: "Not looking at players from over there [England] says something very important about the style we want this league to have. Also, if we applied the same standards to English players coming here as the English apply to our players going there, we'd have a tough time bringing in English players anyway." Ouch.

French ensure revolution has promising start

Christopher Irvine reflects on the successes and failures of Super League's first weekend

WHEN rugby league's final winter season kicked off last August, it was in 80F temperatures. Thermals were brought out to greet the summer Super League at the weekend, and crowds doubled, for which Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) and Bradford Bulls were primarily responsible.

From the fireworks that illuminated the Charlety Stadium in the French capital to the snowflakes that descended on Odsal, a hectic 48 hours brought contrasts and encouragement at the way a new era began, notwithstanding the odd technical hitch.

Wins for PSG and London Broncos helped. It will probably end up as an historic footnote, but the fact that one of these interlopers will briefly lead the competition after their meeting at Charlton on Thursday is the sort of cosmopolitan infiltration that the game has yearned 101 years for.

The 18,000 that turned up to wish Paris's revolution well helped. A total attendance of 54,000 for the six Super League matches represented the most popular start to a season for 23 years. A 10,000 crowd for the Bulls' defeat of Castleford on Sunday night compared with an average home gate last season of 4,650.

Rugby league players habitually bring order to the chaos the game's administrators tend to create. The quality and competitiveness of several of the opening matches eased some pre-season fears, although long-term success cannot be measured until counter-attractions proliferate in the warmer months. It will take more than a few Tina Turner look-alikes and girls waving pom-poms. After their shambolic launch — by no means the only one — Leeds have pensioned off their cheerleaders and will rely in future on an Academy game as a curtain-raiser to the match itself. The 10,036 who cringed at Headingley on Sunday will be mightily relieved.

The product is right; it is the selling that needs sharpening. Just a year ago, Australia was a reminder of what can be achieved until the split in the game there. Attendances for the first full round of the Australian Rugby League season at the weekend were halved, as people voted with their feet, leaving the crowd in Paris, improbably, as the biggest on either continent.

The innovation of the "second referee" was deemed more of a success by Greg McCallum, the referees' director, than the Oldham crowd after a disputed Martin Offiah try for Wigan. Video evidence is meant to clear, not create controversy, but the biggest discrepancy is that the television official is there only for live Sky Television matches. Either a rule should apply to all matches, or none.

☐ The condition of Phil Clarke, the former Wigan and Great Britain back-row forward, who snapped three vertebrae in his neck in Australia at the weekend, is not as serious as first thought. Clarke is expected be able to play again, possibly as early as next season.

Andre Agassi fires a backhand return on his way to a hollow victory over Goran Ivanisevic in the final of the Lipton championship in Florida on Sunday. The No 3 seed was handed the title when his Croatian opponent retired with a neck injury after losing the first three games

Russ paints bright picture of future prospects

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

IN BEST football manager tradition, Tony Russ was painting the back bedroom of his house yesterday rather than plotting Leicester's end-of-season assault on English rugby's double of cup and league. But Russ, dismissed as director of rugby at Welford Road last weekend, is intent on staying in the game.

He left the teaching profession in 1990 to become a professional sports coach and administrator and a number of telephone calls yesterday — some from first division clubs — suggest he will not have to look hard for re-employment. "My record, at Saracens and at Leicester, speaks for itself," he said. "Sport is my profession now and I have been among the most successful in English rugby."

Russ was on the lower steps of the England representative coaching ladder before he joined Leicester and his experience will stand him in good stead in the embryo professional game. For legal reasons, he declines to comment on his abrupt departure from the league champions, but Leicester's general committee, which meets tomorrow, will require some direct answers from the board of management responsible for the day-to-day running of the club.

Speculation has linked Bob Dwyer, the former Australia coach, with Leicester now that his season with the Parisian club, Racing, has ended — with Racing desperately struggling to avoid relegation from pool one.

Dwyer has returned to Sydney, but he will be back in England to coach the World XV which will play Leicester at Twickenham on April 21. It is a game which may suffer because France's international match against Romania in Aurillac is 24 hours earlier and its proximity may force the withdrawal of leading French players, such as Abdelatif Benazzi and Laurent Cabannes.

Peter Wheeler, the Leicester chief executive, was in London yesterday for the latest meeting of English Professional Rugby Union Clubs Ltd, which maintained a dignified silence in the face of the Rugby Football Union's (RFU) statement over the weekend that television companies would deal only with the national unions and not with any club grouping.

It is the RFU's hope that its bargaining position *vis-à-vis* the clubs will be strengthened by the absence of television money which might bankroll a club breakaway.

Board set to exclude minnows of world game

From David Rhys Jones
in Adelaide

A SURPRISE decision taken at a closed meeting of the World Bowls Board (WBB) has revealed the intention of the sport's governing body to curtail the number of countries allowed to compete in the world outdoor championships. When the ninth World Bowls starts in Johannesburg in 2000, only 16 teams will be competing instead of the 30 who did battle here.

The move has been criticised by the smaller countries, who see it as a move towards elitism. Although the world championships may lack a competitive edge, they do provide a chance for the minnows to take on the big fish.

The decision made at the WBB meeting last Monday has not been announced officially, but it is believed that the WBB is determined to implement the cuts.

Although no vote was taken, it became common knowledge that the top seven countries in the 1996 Leonard Trophy ratings, and South Africa, the host country, would qualify automatically for Johannesburg with eight more places offered on a regional basis.

Jersey and Guernsey, who finished thirteenth and fifteenth respectively in the league table here, have been told they will have a chance to qualify from the European championships, which do not, as yet, exist.

"The WBB tell us that the European event is already up and running, but we know nothing about it," Brian Bisson, the Jersey team manager, said. "But we accept the need for change, and if we have to take our chance in a qualifying event, we will do so."

Once the decision was out, however, it was the talk of the Lockleys Centre here and there was so much opposition that, rumour has it, the issue may be reconsidered.

Morgan's doubts removed

WHEN Darren Morgan defeated Steve Davis 9-8 in the final of the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters at Goffs, Co Kildare, on Sunday, he helped to shift a growing inferiority complex (Phil Yates writes).

Despite appearing in the semi-finals of the world and United Kingdom championships in 1994, Morgan has harboured doubts as to his right to a place in the world's top ten. These were removed by his triumph in Ireland, during which he beat Alan McManus, winner of the recent Thailand Open, Peter Ebdon, the defending champion, and Davis, who was attempting to capture the title for a ninth time.

It was not a classic final — Davis saw to that by refusing to abandon a strict percentage game — but it was still a gripping contest as Morgan fought as hard to retain sufficient self-belief as he did to force scoring opportunities from his miserly rival. An excellent 71 clearance to black, from 0-67 down in the twelfth frame, prevented Davis from taking a 7-5 lead and was probably the key to victory.

"I always thought I was good enough to win an important event but it's been a long time coming and there were bound to be doubts creeping in," Morgan, who collected a first prize of £70,000, said. "I think if I had let this chance slip, I might never have had the opportunity to win again."

THE TIMES

Save £35 on tickets to see the Broncos

THE London Super League rugby season kicks off this weekend and *The Times* is offering readers the opportunity to buy a season ticket for the Broncos' home games for £75, saving £35 off the normal season ticket price of £110.

Super League rugby is a fast, exciting sport all the family can enjoy with entertainment before the kick-off and at half-time. And their base, at Charlton Athletic football club's ground, The Valley, in southeast London, has good public transport connections and car parking.

With your season ticket you get:

- reserved seats for 11 home games (including two FREE games)
- a commemorative T-shirt
- London Broncos cap
- no queueing for tickets

Forward Darren Shaw, above, has played for the London Broncos, who can trace their roots back to Fulham, for three years. He also played for Scotland in the World Cup and Super League Nines.

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LONDON Broncos

United bid to stake America's Cup claim

BRITAIN'S premier sailing clubs, the Royal Yacht Squadron and Royal Thames, are planning a joint challenge to New Zealand for the America's Cup in 1999-2000. Lawyers are analysing the viability of such a unique entry under the combined flags of two clubs (David Miller writes).

Britain has failed to win the oldest international trophy in sport, inaugurated by Queen Victoria, for 145 years. The last attempt was by Graham Walker, under the Royal Thames flag, at Fremantle, Australia, in 1986-87.

The committees of both clubs are sensitive to the need for a properly funded challenge, which, even with hull and sail cost limitations introduced last year, is still likely to reach £20 million.

John Prentice, of Royal Thames, said: "In other sports such as golf and rugby there is a pinnacle at which everyone can aim. We feel there is a need to provide such a pinnacle for yachtsmen in Britain. But we must proceed cautiously."

Peter Blake, who masterminded the New Zealand victory last year, is determined that its defence should be in a sporting tournament with equally equipped boats. The New York Yacht Club, which holds the controlling deed of gift, will be equally responsible for ensuring level waters at Auckland.

Blake's victory united New Zealand even more than its rugby team's progress in the World Cup. Britain has the sailors, given good support, to succeed where its other international teams are failing.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Orlando 98 New York 79; Atlanta 93 Boston 92; LA Lakers 111 Toronto 106; Indiana 118 New Jersey 100; LA Clippers 110 Minnesota 107; Charlotte 121 Vancouver 88; San Antonio 97 Phoenix 83; Portland 115 Dallas 100; Sacramento 105 Cleveland 100 (OT)

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Chester 71 London Towers 126; Birmingham 94 Hemel 81; Leopards 109 Newcastle 79; Doncaster 90 Leicester 62.

BOWLS

CAMBERLEY: National father and son championship: Final: N and W Ward (Avon Valley) bt M and R Newman (Whiteknights) 27-25

CRICKET

SINGAPORE: Singer Cup (Sri Lanka won toss): Pakistan 54-3 v Sri Lanka. Match abandoned, replay today

ADELAIDE: Sheffield Shield (third day of five): Western Australia 520-9 dec (A Gilchrist 189 not out, R Baker 83, T Moody 68, B Hogg 61); South Australia 330-7 (P Nobes 103, J Brayshaw 70no).

CURLING

HAMILTON, Ontario: World championships: Men: Final: Canada bt Scotland 6-2. Third place play-off: Switzerland bt Norway 9-6. Women: Final: Canada bt United States 5-2. Third place play-off: Norway bt Germany 11-5.

FENCING

CARDIFF: Home countries combined internationals: Scotland 4 Wales 1, England 5 Northern Ireland 0; Scotland 1 England 4, Wales 4 Northern Ireland 1; Scotland 5 Northern Ireland 0; Wales 3 England 2. Final positions: 1, England 11pts, 2, Scotland 10; 3, Wales 8, 4, Northern Ireland 1.

FOOTBALL

Sunday's late results

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Udinese 2 Sampdoria 4.

PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Belenenses 4 Estrela Amadora 1; Sporting Lisbon 2 Vitoria Guimarães 3; Gil Vicente 1 Tirsense 0; Leca 0 CS Maritimo 0; Braga 3 Farense 2; Campomaiorense 2 Felgueiras 0; FC Porto 1 Leiria 0

BRAZILIAN LEAGUE: São Paulo championship: America 2 Rio Branco 1; Ferroviaria 1 Juventus 1, Guarani 0 Aracatuba 1; Mogi Mirim 1 Portuguesa 1; Novorizontino 0 São Paulo 2; Palmeiras 4 XV de Jau 0; Santos 5 Botafogo 1. Rio de Janeiro championship: America 0 Madureira 0; Americano 1 Fluminense 0; Botafogo 7 Barreira 1; Olaria 2 Flamengo 6; Volta Redonda 0 Bangu 0.

ARGENTINIAN LEAGUE: Ferro Carril Oeste 1 Boca Juniors 2; Gimnasia y Esgrima Jujuy 2 Argentinos Juniors 1; Huracan 3 Colon 2; Lanus 4 Newell's Old Boys 1; Platense 2 Gimnasia y Esgrima La Plata 3; Racing Club 1 Velez Sarsfield 1, River Plate 2 Banfield 1.

GOLF

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Florida: Players' championship: Leading final scores (US unless stated): 270: F Couples 66, 72, 68, 64. 274: C Montgomerie (Scot) 71, 69, 66, 68, T Tolles 69, 64, 69, 72. 275: R Mediate 74, 69, 66, 66, F Zoeller 66, 70, 72, 67; K Perry 65, 71, 70, 69; D Duval 70, 66, 68, 71. 276: T Lehman 70, 72, 67, 67; G Waite (NZ) 68, 72, 68, 68. 277: L Mize 70, 67, 71, 69; G Morgan 70, 69, 69, 69. 278: P Burke 72, 71, 69, 66; D Frost 67, 70, 72, 69. 279: K Triplett 67, 72, 73, 67; S Hoch 71, 70, 70, 68; T Herron 69, 73, 68 69; J Edwards 71, 67, 71, 70; W Grady 72, 69, 68, 70, S Elkington 68, 73, 68, 70, J Daly 69, 70, 68, 72. Other scores: 280: J Ozaki (Japan) 71, 69, 69, 71. 283: N Price (Zim) 70, 69, 73, 71. 284: C Parry (Aus) 66, 74, 72, 72; J Parnevik (Swe) 69, 70, 72, 73. 285: F Nobilo (NZ) 68, 72, 72, 73. 289: M Campbell (NZ) 70, 73, 69, 77.

RANCHO MIRAGE, California: LPGA Dinah Shore championship: Leading final scores (US unless stated): 281: P Sheehan 71, 72, 67, 71. 282: K Robbins 71, 72, 71, 68; M Mallon 71, 70, 71, 70; A Sorenstam (Swe) 67, 72, 73, 70. 283: K Webb (Aus) 72, 70, 70, 71; A Fruhwirth 71, 73, 68, 71; B Burton 75, 67, 68, 73. 284: H Stacy 69, 71, 74, 70. 285: K Tschetter 71, 74, 70, 70. 286: D Richard 73, 71, 73, 69; L Neumann (Swe) 73, 69, 75, 69; V Skinner 74, 71, 71, 70; T Hanson 69, 69, 74, 74; R Jones 72, 67, 75, 72. 287: L Davies (GB) 72, 70, 70, 75; N Lopez 73, 72, 73, 69; M McGeorge 74, 70, 74, 69. 288: S Farwig 71, 73, 73, 71; M Morris 76, 71, 71, 70; T Kerdyk 67, 72, 77, 72; J Inkster 70, 70, 74, 74. 289: A Fukushima (Japan) 74, 69, 78, 68; P Hammel 75, 69, 73, 72; D Pepper 71, 71, 75, 72; J Geddes 74, 72, 74, 69; D Andrews 74, 70, 76, 69; P Bradley 73, 76, 71, 69; A Alcott 68, 78, 71, 72; N Bowen 76, 70, 70, 73. 290: A Nicholas (GB) 75, 72, 72, 71; S Redman 73, 75, 71, 71; B Iverson 76, 71, 73, 70; H Kobayashi (Japan) 72, 74, 72, 72.

SAN ANTONIO: Dominion Seniors' tournament (US unless stated): 207: T Weiskopf 69, 69, 69. 209: G Player (SA) 67, 74, 68; B Dickson 70, 68, 71; G Marsh (Aus) 69, 69, 71. 211: T Shaw 72, 74, 65. 212: H Blancas 74, 69, 69; R Floyd 68, 76, 70; J Powell 69, 70, 73. 213: J McGee 73, 72, 68; C Rodriguez 68, 72, 73; C Epps 66, 73, 74. Other scores: 214: A Jacklin (GB) 71, 71, 72. 218: L Trevino 70, 71, 75. 217: B Barnes (GB) 72, 75, 70. 222: S Hobday (SA) 76, 73, 73.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): NY Rangers 4 NY Islanders 1; Boston 6 Buffalo 5; Chicago 5 Dallas 3; Detroit 8 St Louis 1; Philadelphia 4 Pittsburgh 1; Anaheim 4 San Jose 2; Tampa Bay 1 Washington 1 (OT); Winnipeg 4 Calgary 1.

BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP: Final: Sheffield 3 Nottingham Panthers 3 (Sheffield won 2-1 on penalty shots, at Wembley).

MOTOR RALLYING

GRANITE CITY RALLY (Scotland): 1, A Horne (Metro 6R4) 1hr 10min 17sec; 2, C Mellors (Escort Cosworth) 1:10:55; 3, D Gillanders (Escort Cosworth) 1:11:25

NORTH HUMBERSIDE STATES (Yorkshire): 1, M Clark (Escort Cosworth) 48:23; 2, J Thompson (Escort Cosworth) 48:57; 3, J McNeil (Escort) 48 57.

TWYFORD WOOD STAGES (Lincolnshire): 1, M Robinson (Sierra Cosworth) 57:55; 2, P Dobson (Escort Cosworth) 58:20; 3, A Kemp (Escort) 59:57.

HOB HAY STAGES (Lancashire): 1, W Owen (Metro) 32:15; 2, D Burns (Vauxhall Corsa) 32:35; 3, B Edwards (Darrian T90) 32:44

NETBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Surrey 49 Essex Met 65; Bedfordshire 38 Middlesex 38; East Essex 64 Birmingham 47; Gloucestershire 49 Hertfordshire 40

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Bradford 30 Castleford 18. First division: Batley 20 Whitehaven 13; Featherstone 33 Rochdale 24. Second division: Bramley 16 Leigh 14; South Wales 8 Hull KR 70.

SKIING

TIGNES: British Land national junior championships: Super G: Winners: Men: J Moulder-Brown 1min 19.63sec. Junior one (under-17): D Crouch 1:22.64. Women: T Pirie 1:22.83. Junior one (under-17): A Pirie 1:29.95. Boys (under-16): N Baxter 1:01.77. Child one (under-14): P McMillan 1:05.32. Girls (under-16): C Alcott 1:04.04. Child one (under-14): 1, D Bosher 1:11.00.

SNOOKER

KILDARE: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters: Final: D Morgan (Wales) bt S Davis (Eng) 9-8

PLYMOUTH: British Open: First round (England unless stated): N Bond bt P McPhillips (Scot) 5-0, M Bennett (Wales) bt T Drago (Malta) 5-0; M Price bt A Davies (Wales) 5-2; D Harold bt A Bolsover 5-2; A Hamilton bt K Payne 5-2; G Wilkinson bt S Pettman 5-2; S James bt M Flowerdew 5-1.

SQUASH

CARDIFF: Leekes British Open: Women: First round: M Martin (Aus) bt A Clifton-Parkes (SA) 9-1, 9-0, 9-2; R Cooper (Aus) bt R Grinham (Aus) 9-3, 9-2, 9-7; S Horner (Eng) bt A Wray (Eng) 4-9, 9-0, 9-0, 9-0; C Nitch (SA) bt S Macfie (Scot) 9-3, 9-6, 9-0.

TENNIS

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida: Lipton Championships: Men: Final: A Agassi (US) bt G Ivanisevic (Croatia) 3-0 ret.

MOROCCO: Men's tournament: Final: T Carbonell (Sp) bt G Schaller (Austria) 7-5, 1-6, 6-2.

SUNDAY'S POINT-TO-POINT RESULTS

BELVOIR (Garthorpe): Members: 1, Monarrow (W Tellwright, 4-7 fav). Confined: 1, Stanwick Farlap (T Marks, 10-1). Ladies: 1, General Highway (Mrs J Dawson, 5-4). Open: 1, Celtic King (K Needham, 4-1). Rest: 1, Mr Branigan (T Marks, 3-1). Open Mdn (5-7yo) 1, Needwood Neptune (A Sansome, 5-4 fav).

CATTISTOCK (Little Windsor). Members: 1, Awd Showers (R Atkinson, 6-4 fav). Rest: 1, Apple John (P Henley, 5-2). Ladies: 1, Lewesdon Hill (Miss P Curling, 1-2 fav). Open: 1, Young Brave (M Miller, 6-4 jt-fav). Inter: 1, Apatura Hati (T Mitchell, 4-1). Open Mdn I: 1, Aller Moor (P Henley, Evens fav). Open Mdn II: 1, Frmnont (P Henley, 7-4 fav)

CHESHIRE FOREST (Sudlow Farm): Members: 1, Freddie Fox (T Garton, 4-5 fav). Confined: 1, Grey Gorden (A Crow, Evens fav). Land Rover Open: 1, Mr Tattle (D Barlow, 3-1). Ladies Open: 1, Hornblower (Miss C Burgess, 1-4 fav). Rest: 1, Worleston Farrier (G Hanmer, 3-1). Mdn: 1, Embu-Meru (I Lowe, 6-1).

CLIFTON-ON-TEME (Upper Sapey): Members: 1, Haven Light (A Dalton, 4-9 fav). Rest: 1, Frozen Pipe (L Squire, 4-1). Ladies: 1, Stephens Pet (Miss A Dare, 1-3 fav). Open: 1, Lost Fortune (H Wheeler, 2-7 fav). Inter: 1, Rip Van Winkle (Miss A Dare, 4-5 fav). Confined: 1, Di Stefano (Miss A Dare, 4-6 fav). Open Mdn I (pt I): 1, Western Harmony (E Williams, 4-1). Open Mdn I (pt II): 1, Live Wire (T Cox, 7-1). Open Mdn II: 1, Gromit (J Pritchard, 12-1)

DUMFRIESSHIRE (Lockerbie). Members: 1, Solwaysands (K Little, 1-4 fav). Confined: 1, Fordstown (J Alexander, 14-1). Ladies: 1, Kilmanloyle (Miss S Forster, 7-1). Open: 1, Borsam Owen (T Morrison, 2-7 fav). Rest: 1, Toaster Crumpet (Miss P Robson, 9-2). Mdn I: 1, Denim Blue (Miss P Robson, 2-1 fav). Mdn II: 1, Kirchwyn Lad (R Shiels, 8-1).

HURWORTH (Great Stainton): Members: 1, Chapel Island (G Tuer, 11-8). Rest: 1, Jr-Kay (N Bannister, 33-1). Ladies: 1, Indie Rock (Mrs F Needham, 3-1). Land Rover Open: 1, Fiery Sun (N Wilson, 5-1). Inter: 1, Flip The Lid (N Wilson, 4-6 fav). Mdn I (pt I): 1, Whispers Hill (C Mulhall, 4-1). Mdn I (pt II): 1, Ruff Account (Miss J Eastwood, 20-1). Mdn II: 1, Rabble Rouser (R Edwards, 7-1).

TIVYSIDE (Pantyderi). Members: 1, Celtic Bizarre (Miss B Barton, 1-3 fav). Confined: 1, Bancyfelin Boy (J Keen, 6-1). Inter: 1, Mister Horatio (M Lewis, 1-2 fav). Open: 1, Carlowitz (J Price, 20-1). Ladies: 1, Goolds Gold (Miss P Jones, 1-2 fav). Rest: 1, Robbie's Boy (J Keen, Evens fav). Mdn I: 1, Dustys Trail (R Thornton, 2-1 fav). Mdn II (pt I): 1, Cedar Square (D S Jones, 2-1). Mdn II (pt II): 1, Shuil's Star (P Hamer, 5-2).

WEST KENT (Penshurst): Members: 1, Prince Ronan (A Welsh, 5-2). Confined: 1, Burromariner (S Cowell, 6-4 fav). Open: 1, Centre Stage (A Warr, 25-1). Ladies: 1, Dunboy Castle (Miss G Chown, 3-1). Inter: 1, Dream Packet (M Gorman, 5-4 fav). Rest: 1, Alansford (P Bull, Evens fav). Mdn I: 1, Elmore (P Hacking, 5-2 fav). Mdn II: 1, Iorwerth (Miss C Savell 4-1)

WINDSOR FOREST BLOODHOUNDS (Tweseldown): City Of London: 1†, Yahoo (S Astaire). 1†, Button Your Lip (Mrs J Enderby). Members: 1, Wrekin Hill (Mrs J Wilkinson, 5-4 fav). Confined: 1, Tex Mex (J Mouse, 4-7 fav). Open. 1, Alaitoun (T Lacey 11-4). Ladies: 1, Dannaas (Miss L Parrott, Evens fav). Rest: 1, Silver Concord (S Blackwell, 4-1). Open Mdn: 1, Fathers Footprints (R Hicks, 8-1).

Couples denies Scot by taking full advantage of a stroke of good luck

Montgomerie can profit from major change of fortune

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN PONTE VEDRA BEACH

COLIN MONTGOMERIE might have been celebrating his first success in a tournament in the United States here on Sunday but for a semi-circular piece of wood as wide as a man's hand.

You could argue that it was because of the part played by this piece of timber that Montgomerie had to be content with coming second in a tournament on the US PGA Tour for the third time in 22 months.

The Players' Championship was bubbling up to a fine conclusion when Fred Couples came to the 16th, 15 under par and trailing Montgomerie and Tommy Tolles, the 54-hole leader, by one stroke. Destiny was about to tap Couples on the shoulder and compensate him for missing an embarrassingly short putt of less than two feet on the 11th by allowing him to win this tournament.

His second shot, with a two-iron, flew out towards the water that guards the right-hand side of this green where, shoring up the watery side of the putting surface, are wooden bulkheads.

By a stroke of luck, Couples's shot did not end in the water but landed on a bulkhead and took a big leap forward onto the green. From there, he sank the putt for an eagle to jump to 17 under and into a one-stroke lead.

These two were the first of the significant strokes that would determine who would win the first-place cheque of £420,000. The next involved Montgomerie, barely five minutes later. Europe's leading money-winner these past three years, having had the lead snatched from him, knew he had to pull out something special on this same hole, which was just about within his reach in two strokes.

His second shot, hit with his metal three-wood from 230 yards out, drifted away from the flag, which was positioned no more than six paces from the edge of the green, until it plopped into the water that Couples's ball had so fortunately avoided minutes earlier.

Final scores 44

The next moment of significance involved Montgomerie on the 16th and Couples just a couple of hundred yards away on the near-island green of the 17th. Couples sank a putt for a birdie and Montgomerie took a bogey six. Knowing then that he could not catch Couples, Montgomerie dropped another stroke on the last. Couples had covered his last seven holes in four under par, Montgomerie and Tolles in one over par.

Finishing as joint runner-up will hardly have lessened Montgomerie's self-belief when he competes in the Bell South tournament in Atlanta this week before driving up to Augusta, Georgia, next week for the Masters.

"Coming second here is a confidence boost," he said. "I was going for a 66 and yet that still would not have won, so you have got to say well done to Freddie for going out and taking a 64. I had got into a position to win, but unfortunately I did not take it."

After the US PGA Championship last year, when Montgomerie lost a play-off to Steve Elkington, and bearing in mind his performance in losing the 1994 US Open only over 18 extra holes, I predicted it would only be a matter of time before he won a major championship. That applies even more today. In two tournaments this year, Montgomerie is 32 under par for his eight rounds and richer by £300,000.

There is no apparent weakness in his game and I would not be surprised to see him win in Atlanta this week or at Augusta next week — or both.

He improves every time you see him and Johnny Miller, a former Open champion, said on television that he expected Montgomerie to be the best player in the world by the end of the year.

Montgomerie is striking the ball so well that he is 32 under par for eight rounds

Sheehan enjoys that floating feeling again

Sheehan: exuberant

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN MISSION HILLS CALIFORNIA

PATTY SHEEHAN, an exuberant being, used to believe she could walk on water. The last time she was at St Pierre, in Chepstow, for the 1980 Curtis Cup, was just such an occasion. She won all four of her matches and her feet barely touched the ground.

Sheehan, now 39 and aware of her limitations, should certainly be at St Pierre again for the Solheim Cup in September after a thrilling victory in the 25th Nabisco Dinah Shore here on Sunday. It was the stocky American's sixth major championship but her first Dinah.

To win, Sheehan had to par the 526-yard 18th, having had her sixth birdie of a topsy-turvy day at the 171-yard 17th. She had had five bogeys and, as she stood on the tee, seven players were still in with a chance of the title. It was a task that proved beyond Annika Sorenstam and Kelly Robbins, who finished on 282, six under par, alongside Meg Mallon.

After a long wait, Sheehan nearly pulled her three-wood off the tee into the water. Among those who had delayed her was Laura Davies, on her way to an uninspired 75 and a share of fifteenth place. Davies launched her three-wood onto the island green but took three more to get down — a contrast to the euphoria of the third round when she had hit a three-iron to ten feet for an eagle three. Sheehan put her second shot into a bunker and then hit a nine-iron "dead left".

The ball was on the green but Sheehan, who had three-putted four times already, now had to get down in two putts from what was 120 feet on Sunday but will probably be at least 150 by tomorrow. "A monster," she called it. She rolled her first putt to within ten feet — "a very good putt," she said — and the next was even better. Sheehan was so sure the ball was in that she started leaping like a dervish before it disappeared. She then did a somersault, which she dedicated to her mother. She dedicated the victory to her father, who has not been well recently.

The crowd demanded the now traditional leap into the lake but Sheehan made do with a gentle wade, clutching the trophy and trying to ensure the cheque for $135,000 (£89,000) did not get wet.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Waqar delighted to see back of Lamb

WAQAR YOUNIS, the Pakistan fast bowler, yesterday declared that Allan Lamb's retirement was good for cricket. "He is the kind of man who always wants to create controversies," Waqar said. Lamb, whose autobiography is to be published this summer, refused to submit it for scrutiny by the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), as he would have to do if he signed a new contract with Northamptonshire, who had granted him a testimonial.

Lamb's book is expected to revive the ball-tampering allegations he levelled against the Pakistan bowlers in 1992, for which he was fined £5,000 by the TCCB. "If I continue to play cricket, they will have the power to prevent me telling my story. And I have no doubt that they would use that power," he said. Lamb played 79 Tests for England between 1982 and 1992 and captained Norththamptonshire from 1989 until the end of last season.

Flames on slow burner

ICE HOCKEY: Guildford Flames announced yesterday that they will not take part in the super league that is scheduled to start in the autumn. The Flames say they cannot get together a good enough team in time and have asked if they can delay their entry for a year. This leaves six teams in the new competition, of which only Sheffield Steelers and Manchester Storm have an arena of the requisite size and Durham Wasps do not have a home at all.

Hall sets sights high

BADMINTON: Darren Hall's ambitions extend far beyond his challenge for a record eighth English national title, which starts today in Norwich against Tom Gooden, of Hertfordshire. Hall, 30, plans to use the nationals as a springboard for the European championships and the Olympics. "There's no reason why I can't win the national title and take European and Olympic medals," he said. "I have been in tremendous form for the last six weeks."

Moving date for Regan

BOXING: Robbie Regan, of Wales, is to meet Daniel Jimenez, of Puerto Rico, for the World Boxing Organisation bantamweight title in Cardiff on April 26. The contest will mark a move up the weights for Regan, the former European flyweight champion. "I have had a bit of trouble in making flyweight recently," Regan said. He is also stepping up in class against Jimenez, who lists Drew Docherty and Alfred Kotey among his recent victims.

Cold comfort for Scots

CURLING: Scotland's hopes of a third men's world championship title were dashed in Hamilton, Ontario, yesterday when Canada beat them 6-2 in the final. The team from Perth, led by Warwick Smith, fielded three of the 1991 world championship rink in David Smith. Peter Smith and David Hay, but the Canadians were more than a match for such experienced oppusition, sealing the title with a single on the ninth end.

Diplomat bagged

REAL TENNIS: Julian Snow, of Britain, the world's leading amateur, and his partner, the veteran American, Sam Howe, reached the final of the British Land national doubles championship by beating the fourth seeds, Andrew Page and Mark Howard, for the loss of four games at Moreton Morrell. Page, recently returned from diplomatic duty in Kiev, looked short of match practice whereas Snow and Howe played almost error-free tennis.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Uefa Cup
Semi-finals, first leg
Slavia Prague v Bordeaux
Bayern Munich v Barcelona (7.15)

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division
Barnsley v Norwich (7.45)
Birmingham v Portsmouth (7.45)
Charlton v Leicester (7.45)
Crystal Palace v Port Vale (7.45)
Huddersfield v Reading (7.45)
Ipswich v Derby (7.45)
Oldham v Grimsby (7.45)
Sheffield Utd v Southend (7.45)
Tranmere v Millwall
Watford v Sunderland (7.45)
West Bromwich v Luton (7.45)

Second division
Brentford v Stockport (7.45)
Bristol Rovers v Bradford
Burnley v Bournemouth
Carlisle v Crewe (7.45)
Chesterfield v Blackpool
Hull v Bristol City
Oxford Utd v Wrexham (7.45)
Rotherham v Notts County
Swansea v Peterborough
Walsall v Wycombe (7.45)
York v Shrewsbury

Third division
Barnet v Cardiff (7.45)
Bury v Fulham
Cambridge Utd v Northampton (7.45)
Chester v Leyton Orient
Colchester v Rochdale (7.45)
Gillingham v Darlington (7.45)
Hereford v Doncaster
Lincoln v Scarborough (7.45)
Plymouth v Mansfield (7.45)
Preston v Torquay
Scunthorpe v Hartlepool
Wigan v Exeter (7.45)

Vauxhall Conference
Northwich v Gateshead (7.45)
Telford v Hednesford (7.45)

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Gravesend and Northfleet v Merthyr; Grantham v Hastings; Stafford v Sudbury (7.45). Midland division: King's Lynn v Redditch (7.45); Rothwell v Evesham; Stourbridge v RC Warwick; Sutton Coldfield v Bilston (7.45). Southern division: Ashford v Forest Green; Clevedon v Bashley; Tonbridge Angels v Poole (7.45); Waterlooville v Weymouth; Weston-super-Mare v Braintree; Yate v Trowbridge. Dr Martens Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Moor Green (0) v Nuneaton (2).

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop's Stortford v Hitchin; St Albans v Boreham Wood; Yeading v Hendon; Yeovil v Purfleet (7.45). Postponed: Grays v Carshalton. First division: Barking v Chesham. Heybridge Swifts v Barton Rovers; Maidenhead United v Uxbridge; Marlow v Aldershot Town; Staines v Billericay; Wembley v Bognor Regis. Second division: Bracknell v Wivenhoe; Canvey Island v Metropolitan Police; Chalfont St Peter v Ware; Cheshunt v Hungerford; Egham v Collier Row; Hampton v Banstead; H Hempstead v Bedford Town. Third division: Aveley v Leighton; Cove v Kingsbury; Epsom and Ewell v Hertford; Flackwell Heath v Northwood; Southall v Windsor and Eton. Guardian Insurance Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Kingstonian (3) v Aylesbury (1).

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Blyth Spartans v Droylsden; Marine v Colwyn Bay. First division: Congleton v Ashton United; Curzon Ashton v Radcliffe; Lincoln United v Whitley Bay (7.45); Workington v Grantham. President's Cup: Semi-final, first leg: Worksop v Bamber Bridge. League Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Leek (2) v Boston United (1).

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: West Ham v Tottenham (7.0).

LEAGUE OF WALES: Ebbw Vale v Caersws; Newtown v Conwy.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Wimborne (2) v Portsmouth RN (1).

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Ringmer v Crowborough; Shoreham v Peacehaven and Telscombe; Oakwood v Wick; Three Bridges v Burgess Hill.

HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Stotfold v Wootton; Wellingborough v Cogenhoe.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Halesowen Harriers v Blakenhall; Oldbury v West Midlands Police; Sandwell v Barwell; Stratford v Bolehall; Willenhall v Rushall Olympic.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Ramsgate v Chatham; Sheppey v Crockenhill; Slade Green v Faversham; Whitstable v Hythe.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Mangotsfield v Tiverton, Paulton R v Bristol Manor Farm; Westbury v Odd Down.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Banbury v Burnham.

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Croydon v Corinthian-Casuals; Hillingdon Borough v Tufnell Park.

COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Badlon: v Ashford; Farnham v Netherne; Merstham v Cranleigh.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Aylesey Town v London Colney; Biggleswade v Dunstable, Potters Bar v Harpenden, Letchworth v Welwyn Garden.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Romford v Burnham Ramblers.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Whickham v Peterlee.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Darwen v Burscough; Mossley v Flixton; Trafford v Salford.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Glasshoughton Welfare v Ossett Albion; Ossett Town v Liversedge, Stocksbridge PS v North Ferriby; Thackley v Goole.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Old Ignatians v Old Aloysians.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: FAI League v League of Wales (at St Colman's Park, Cobh, Co Cork).

OTHER MATCH: Alnincham v Ilnosi (Norway).

SCHOOLS MATCHES: InterCity: Liverpool v London (Goodison Park, 7.0). Snowdon Cup: Kirkby Knowsley v St Helens. Inter-Association: Sunderland v Wigan. Durham Festival (from 10.0): Wellingborough v Newcastle; Luton v Chester-le-Street; Leeds v East Northumberland; Gravesham v Derwentside; Allerdale v Darlington; Peterborough v Bishop Auckland; Hull v Sunderland; Hartlepool v North Tyneside.

RUGBY UNION

HART GILMORE FOUR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP: Final: Greater Birmingham v Worcester and Hereford (at Moseley, 7.30).

OTHER SPORT

BADMINTON: English national championships (Norwich Sport Village).

SNOOKER: British Open (Plymouth Pavilions).

SQUASH: Leekes British Open (Cardiff).

POOLS FORECAST

Saturday April 6
unless stated
Coupon No, fixture, forecast

FA PREMIERSHIP
1 Arsenal v Leeds 1
2 Chelsea v A Villa X
3 Coventry v Liverpool X
4 Everton v Bolton 1
5 Man City v Man Utd 2
6 Newcastle v QPR 1
7 Nott'm F v Tottenham 1
8 South'pton v Blackburn 2
9 W Ham v Wimbledon X
Not on coupons: Middlesbrough v Sheffield Wednesday (Friday)

FIRST DIVISION
10 Barnsley v Sund'land 2
11 Birm'gham v P Vale X
12 C Palace v Leicester 1
13 Hudd'f'ld v Southend X
14 Ipswich v Reading 1
15 Oldham v Derby 2
16 Sheff Utd v Wolves 2
17 Stoke v Grimsby 1
18 Tranmere v Norwich 2
19 Watford v Portsm'th 1
20 WBA v Millwall 1
Not on coupons: Charlton v Luton (Friday)

SECOND DIVISION
21 Brentford v Crewe X
22 Bristol R v Brighton 1
23 Burnley v Bradford X
24 Carlisle v Bourn'm'th 1
25 Chest'f'ld v Stockp't X
26 Hull v Wycombe 2
27 Oxford v Blackpool 1
28 Roth'ham v Shr'sbury 1
29 Swansea v Wrexham 2
30 Swindon v Notts Co 1
31 Walsall v Bristol C X
32 York v Peterboro 1

THIRD DIVISION
33 Barnet v North'pton X
34 Bury v Mansfield 1
35 Cambr'ge v Rochdale 2
36 Chester v Scarboro 1
37 Colchester v Cardiff 1
38 Gill'gham v Hartlepool 1
39 Hereford v Fulham 2
40 Lincoln v Exeter 1
41 Plymouth v Derl'gton 1
42 Preston v Doncaster 1
43 Scunth'pe v Torquay 1
44 Wigan v Leyton O 1

SCOTTISH CUP SEMI-FINALS
Not on coupons: Aberdeen v Hearts (at Hampden Park), Celtic v Rangers (at Hampden Park, Sunday)

SCOTTISH PREMIER
45 *Celtic v Kilmarnock 1
46 Falkirk v Raith X
47 *Hearts v Rangers 2
48 Motherwell v Hibernian 1
49 *Partick v Aberdeen X

SCOTTISH FIRST
50 Airdrie v S J'stone 2
51 Dundee U v Dumb'ton 1
52 Dunf'mline v Hamilton 1
53 G Morton v Clydebank 1
54 St Mirren v Dundee X

SCOTTISH SECOND
55 Ayr v Q of South 1
56 E Fife v Berwick 1
57 Montrose v Stenh'muir X
58 Stirling v Forfar 1
Not on coupons: Stranraer v Clyde

SCOTTISH THIRD
Not on coupons: Albion v Brechin; Alloa v Queen's Park, Arbroath v Cowdenbeath; Caledonian v East Stirling; Livingston v Ross

*Pools panel to adjudicate

DRAWS: Coventry, West Ham, Birmingham, Huddersfield, Brentford, Burnley, Chesterfield, Walsall, Barnet, Falkirk, St Mirren, Montrose.
BEST DRAWS: Birmingham, Brentford, Burnley, Walsall, St Mirren
AWAYS: Manchester United, Sunderland, Norwich, Wycombe, Wrexham.

HOMES: Arsenal, Newcastle, Ipswich, Stoke, Carlisle, York, Bury, Chester, Colchester, Preston, Wigan, East Fife.

FIXED ODDS: Homes: Arsenal, Ipswich, Carlisle, York, Bury. Aways: Sunderland, Wycombe, Wrexham. Draws: Birmingham, Brentford, Walsall.

Monday April 8

Coupon No, fixture, forecast

FA PREMIERSHIP
1 A Villa v South'pton 1
2 Bolton v Chelsea X
3 Leeds v Nott'm F 2
4 Liverpool v W Ham 1
5 Man Utd v Coventry 1
6 QPR v Everton 2
7 Sheff W v Arsenal 2
8 Tottenham v Midd'bro 1
9 Wimbledon v Man City 1
Not on coupons: Blackburn v Newcastle

FIRST DIVISION
10 Derby v Tranmere 1
11 Grimsby v Ipswich 2
12 Norwich v Hudd'f'ld 1
13 P Vale v Oldham 1
14 Portsm'th v Sheff U 1
15 Reading v C Palace 2
16 Southend v Watford 1
17 Sunderl'd v Charlton 1
18 Wolves v Barnsley 1

SECOND DIVISION
19 Blackpool v Roth'ham 1
20 Bradford v Carlisle 1
21 Bristol C v York 1
22 Crewe v Swindon X
23 Peterboro v Brentf'd X
24 Stockport v Hull 1
25 Wrexham v Walsall 1
26 Wycombe v Oxford 2

THIRD DIVISION
27 Cardiff v Lincoln 2
28 Darl'gton v Cambr'ge 1
29 Doncaster v Gill'gham X
30 Exeter v Hereford X
31 Fulham v Chester X
32 Hartlepool v Wigan 2
33 Leyton O v Scunth'pe X
34 Mansfield v Preston 2
35 North'ton v Colc'ster 1
36 Rochdale v Barnet 2
Not on coupons: Torquay v Plymouth

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE
37 Bath v Dag'ham & R 1
38 Farnboro v Altr'cham 1
39 Gravesh'd v Kid'minster X
40 Kettering v Halifax 1
41 Macclesf'ld v Dover 1
42 Runcorn v Morecambe 1
43 Southport v Slough 1
44 Stalybr'ge v Br'sgrove X
45 Stevenage v Woking 2
46 Telford v Welling 1

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION
47 Camb C v Ch'msf'd X
48 Glouc'ter v Chalt'ham X
49 Gravesend v Baldock 1
50 Hastings v Crawley 1
51 Merthyr v Newport 1
52 Salisbury v Dorchester 1
53 Stafford v Bleston X
54 Sudbury v Rushden 2
55 VS Rugby v Grantham 2

UNIBOND LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION
56 Accr'gton v Bamber B X
57 Blyth v Barrow 1
58 Buxton v Gainsboro 2

DRAWS: Bolton, Crewe, Peterborough, Doncaster, Fulham, Leyton Orient, Gateshead, Stalybridge, Cambridge City, Gloucester, Stafford, Accrington.
BEST DRAWS: Crewe, Doncaster, Leyton Orient, Gateshead, Gloucester

FIXED ODDS: Homes: Aston Villa, Port Vale, Bristol City, Stockport, Darlington. Aways: Nottingham Forest, Arsenal, Barnet. Draws: Doncaster, Leyton Orient, Gloucester.

☐ Vince Wright

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Obergurgl	20	80	good	varied	good	fine	4	30/3
(Very good skiing on powdery snow: cold first thing)								
St Anton	50	250	fair	varied	art	fine	6	30/3
(Good skiing on most pistes, best at altitude)								
FRANCE								
Les Arcs	45	190	good	heavy	slushy	cloud	5	1/4
(Fresh snow making most runs forgiving: some slush)								
Avoriaz	110	130	good	varied	worn	snow	-7	1/4
(New snow keeping skiing good on upper slopes)								
Chamonix	25	230	fair	varied	closed	snow	4	1/4
(10cm of fresh snow on varied base: flat light)								
Flaine	35	240	good	varied	fair	snow	-2	1/4
(Constant snowfall improving skiing: outlook superb)								
La Plagne	90	195	fair	varied	worn	cloud	-1	27/3
(Pistes hard-packed with some icy patches: no crowds)								
Tignes	105	190	good	varied	good	snow	3	1/4
(Good skiing but overcast with flat light and snowfall)								
ITALY								
Bormio	0	140	fair	varied	closed	cloud	2	23/3
(Good skiing above 2,000m: flat light)								
SWITZERLAND								
Arosa	50	50	fair	varied	fair	fair	1	30/3
(Upper slopes reasonably good: lowest pistes patchy)								
C Montana	0	200	good	powder	closed	snow	1	1/4
(Heavy snowfall: outlook excellent for Easter)								
Verbier	10	170	good	varied	art	snow	-3	1/4
(Limited visibility in falling snow: good above 2,200m)								
Wengen	10	40	good	varied	closed	snow	-4	1/4
(Fresh snow softening open runs: good skiing)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Dealer East N/S game with +60 partscore

North: ♠AQ9542 ♥A84 ♦KQ8 ♣3
West: ♠1076 ♥10 ♦A10942 ♣AQ96
East: ♠KJ83 ♥7653 ♦J75 ♣K4
South: ♠None ♥KQJ92 ♦63 ♣J108752

W	N	E	S
—	—	Pass	Pass
1D	2S	2NT	3H
4C	4H	All pass	

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: ace of diamonds

There were several dubious bids in this auction, typical of what happens when one side is trying to prevent the other side from converting their part-score. Had North-South judged to defend they would have been assured of a plus score. West led the ace of diamonds and switched to a trump, declarer winning with dummy's ace. A small club was led, and East judged well to pop up with the king to play another trump. South won in hand and ruffed a club, but what now? Can you see a legitimate way of making the contract?

Declarer played a small spade from dummy and East destroyed his previous good efforts by contributing the jack. Declarer ruffed and drew trumps. East's hand was now clear — he had shown up with four hearts and two clubs. If he had had five spades he presumably would have doubled North's Two Spades, so it seemed likely that he was 4-4-3-2; his 2NT bid marked him with the king of spades. So declarer continued by cashing the king and queen of diamonds. He then exited with the queen of spades. East was end-played - he had to give dummy the last two tricks.

☐ The final rounds of the Premier League were played at the weekend. As expected the 1st division was won in convincing style by Paul Hackett's team (Monachan, Hackett, Hackett, Forrester, Robson). The 2nd division saw a tie for first place between Derek Patterson (Whittaker, Collins, Jones) and Michelle Brunner (Holland, Hirst, Hassett, Banks, Pomfrey). The tie was split, on aggregate IMPs, in favour of Patterson. The first placed team only is guaranteed promotion to the 1st division next season.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

BCF protest

The British Chess Federation has protested, via the European Chess Union, to the world federation about the proposed Fide world championship match between Kamsky and Karpov in Baghdad. In a letter to the European Chess Union president, Professor Kurt Jungwirth, they say: "We support the demand for a special meeting of the European Chess Federations to consider the matter and we urge you to convene such a meeting in the very near future."

Kasparov leads

Garry Kasparov shares the lead with Veselin Topalov, of Bulgaria, with one round to go in Amsterdam. In round seven he defeated the Russian Vladimir Kramnik.

White: Garry Kasparov
Black: Vladimir Kramnik
Amsterdam, March 1996

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nc3	Nc6
3	Nge2	d6
4	d4	cxd4
5	Nxd4	Nf6
6	Bg5	e6
7	Qd2	Be7
8	0-0-0	Nxd4
9	Qxd4	a6
10	f4	b5
11	Bxf6	gxf6
12	Bd3	Qc7
13	Qe3	Qc5
14	Qg3	b4
15	Ne2	a5
16	Kb1	Kf8
17	Qh3	h5
18	Rc1	d5
19	exd5	Qxd5
20	f5	a4
21	Rhe1	Rb8
22	Nf4	Qd6
23	Qf3	e5
24	Nd5	Bd8
25	Be4	Qc5
26	c3	bxc3
27	Rxc3	Qd6
28	Rd1	Bb6
29	Nxb6	Qxb6
30	Rc2	Kg7
31	a3	Kf6
32	Rdd2	Bb7
33	Bxb7	Qxb7
34	Rc6	Rhc8
35	Rxf6+	Kg5
36	Rxf7	Qxf3
37	gxf3	Rc3
38	Rg2+	Kf4
39	f6	Rxf3
40	Re7	Rf8
41	f7	Kf5
42	Rg8	Kf6
43	Rxe5	Black resigns

Diagram of final position

Adams ahead

Michael Adams has moved into a clear lead in New York.

White: Michael Adams
Black: Joel Benjamin
New York, March 1996

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	e6
3	c3	Nf6
4	e5	Nd5
5	d4	cxd4
6	cxd4	b6
7	Bc4	Ba6
8	Bxa6	Nxa6
9	0-0	Be7
10	Nbd2	0-0
11	Ne4	Nac7
12	Bg5	f6
13	exf6	Nxf6
14	Bxf6	gxf6
15	Rc1	d5
16	Ng3	Qd7
17	Nf4	Bd6
18	f4	f5
19	Nh5	Qf7
20	Rf3	Kh8
21	Rh3	Rg8
22	Nf3	Qe7
23	Qe2	Ne8
24	Rc6	Qd7
25	Ne5	Qe7
26	Rxd6	Nxd6
27	Nc6	Black resigns

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

JOSKIN
a. An ecclesiastical vestment
b. A clown
c. A kangaroo pelt

JUNCO
a. An old card game
b. An Australian drug addict
c. A snow bird

JOBBERNOWL
a. A bird of ill omen
b. A dolt
c. A Hanseatic mercenary

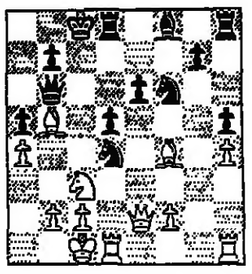
JERKINHEAD
a. A cranial tic
b. A gable
c. An attached hood

Answers on page 46

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is a variation from the game Nimzowitsch — Alekhine, Vilna 1912. This is an extample of a trap Alekhine avoided. The black king is unable to move, having been caught in the crossfire of the white bishops. How could White now increase the pressure with a fine combination?



Solution on page 46

Australian with attitude continues to prove the bane of sport's authorities

Squash rebel still courting controversy

By Andrew Longmore

ANTHONY HILL had already pigeon-holed the referee for his first-round match in the Leekes British Open squash championships yesterday. "He'll be over 50, for starters." And, if Hill is to be believed, the official would come to the court bearing at best an irrational dislike of the young Australian, at worst a personal fatwa to eliminate him from the game forever. A morning in the company of the John McEnroe of squash can severely distort reality.

The official line is that Hill, 26, is suffering from a psychotic disorder brought on by the sight of an opponent and a squash court: Hill believes he is no more than "a smart-arse". Somewhere in the Grand Canyon of the generation gap lies the truth, and a disciplinary record so outrageous that McEnroe would probably want to frame it for his New York art gallery.

Hill's five-game victory over Johnathan Power, of Canada, in Cardiff yesterday marked his return from a three-month

Results 44

suspension imposed by the Professional Squash Association (PSA). He is also banned from the world team championships and the World Cup for the next two years and, subject to appeal, has been banned by his own federation until the turn of the millennium. His misdemeanours range from simple abuse of referees to baiting opponents, racket-throwing and spitting. He has made the narrow line between gamesmanship and cheating his own personal thoroughfare.

What everyone agrees is that, away from the court, Hill is as likeable a bloke as one could wish to meet. He is also a better player than his world ranking of eight, and the darling of sponsors desperate for publicity.

Hill's rebel tendencies can be traced to the final of the Victorian under-13 championships. Hill was 12, his opponent was a friend, and a trip to Queensland was at stake. The referee had to part the pair after one point. Hill won and went to Brisbane. But it was a head-butting incident with the Pakistani player, Mir Zaman Gul, two years ago at the British Open, that brought Hill to prominence.

Hill was actually the victim of the butt, and Zaman was banned for six months, but a feud was born which surfaced again at the world team championships last year, and a five-year national suspension for Hill resulted.

"I don't go out looking for trouble," he said. "Once on court, I'm just like everyone else going to work. I don't cheat, but there is a fine line before what you're doing is wrong. Everybody uses some form of gamesmanship and, contrary to what people say, I'm always in control. I have to argue a bit because I'm not as fit as some of these guys."

Hill likes to see himself as a crusader for his sport against the muddling of the PSA. An automatic year-long ban, which is just a stray swear-word away, would not hurt him unduly, he claims, because exhibition and league events are his bread-and-butter, not the rickety PSA tour. "If I was earning $100,000 from the PSA it might be worth seeing a sports psychologist to straighten myself out, but I'm not," Hill said. "They're make-believe people and they need me whether they like it or not."

Hill's narrow victory yesterday was more theatre than sport. Almost every point ended in supplication, but the players were united in friendship. Wisely, the officials fed the humour rather than jumping on it. Power was smarter and funnier, the more appealing character in every sense. Hill threw away six points in a sulky end to the fourth game, but sneaked the fifth. The match ended in an appeal and a handshake, the explosion delayed for another day.

Hill says that he must get together with the authorities sooner rather than later to sort out the mess. They need each other more than either party might realise. Hill might have to accept he can be wrong. He was wrong about Dean Clayton, the referee, on two counts yesterday. He is 46 and did a good job.

HUW EVANS

Hill, left, on his way to a first-round victory over Power in the Leekes British Open championships yesterday

Rowland rues lack of protection

By Colin McQuillan

SPECTATORS at the first round of the Leekes British Open championships were delighted to find Rodney Eyles, the No 2 seed, fighting for survival yesterday against his talented young Australian compatriot, Craig Rowland. But Rowland, the world No 12, was less than enthralled with the new Professional Squash Association (PSA) seedings rule that produced such a high-profile encounter so early in the event.

Eyles won 11-15, 15-11, 15-14, 13-15, 15-5 in 81 minutes at the Welsh Institute of Sport in Cardiff and looked as much relieved as satisfied to have done so. Rowland, who reached the semi-finals of the world open championship in November, was just one rally away from a 2-1 lead that might have proved too tall an order for Eyles.

The PSA decided after the world open to begin seeding only eight players, leaving top-16 players such as Rowland, who would previously have been afforded some initial protection, at the mercy of the random draw. A few more first rounds like this and Rowland, along with other young players who have steadily climbed the rankings, could find himself perilously disconnected from the sport's leading players.

"I actually voted for this change," Rowland said yesterday. "Everyone seemed in favour and it looked as if it could make earlier rounds more exciting. Later, I began thinking about how it could affect me and it could be very destructive. There is a growing feeling against this rule. I think we will have to have a special PSA meeting here in Cardiff to get rid of it."

Eyles goes through to the second round on the all-transparent Perspex show court against Graham Ryding, of Canada, at the Cardiff International Arena tomorrow, with the possibility of a quarter-final on Friday against Anthony Hill.

In the women's championship, Suzanne Horner, the British national champion, progressed without problems to meet Claire Nitch, of South Africa, in the second round. Michelle Martin, the Australian defending champion, stormed through in just 21 minutes against Angelique Clifton-Parks, another South African, and now meets Robyn Cooper, her young compatriot.

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	£2,000+	3.00	2.25
	£500+	2.10	1.58
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Hill proceeds with caution

From Oliver Holt in São Paulo

DAMON HILL departed from his self-imposed rules and let complacency sink in for a few hours on Sunday night. After a hotel dinner of chicken and chips and a couple of glasses of champagne to celebrate his crushing victory in the Brazilian Grand Prix, he and his wife, Georgie, set off for a coastal resort without confirming their reservation. Five hours and a couple of grand-prix distances later, they were back in São Paulo; no room at the inn.

It was the first time Hill had taken anything for granted all day. Even after his victory, hard on the heels of success in Melbourne, had taken him 14 points clear in the drivers' championship and gave him the appearance of invincibility even at this early stage of the season, he refused to get carried away.

He allowed himself to talk about the possibility of three, even four, successive wins, but that was as far as it went. The rest was caution and modesty personified, allied to warnings that Benetton and Ferrari could still come back at him.

The fact is, though, that Michael Schumacher's challenge will be a pale imitation of last year's as he fights to keep his head above water at Ferrari. At Benetton, Jean Alesi and Gerhard Berger are struggling to provide the metronomic brilliance that was Schumacher's trademark and the team is in trauma trying to adjust to drivers who make mistakes.

In addition, Jacques Villeneuve, Hill's Williams-Renault team-mate and the man who will probably be his strongest challenger, showed all weekend that he will be at a disadvantage on the circuits with which he is not familiar. Finally, and perhaps most important, Hill is a changed man, growing in stature all the time as Schumacher seems to be shrinking under the weight of responsibility at Ferrari.

In a similar position, Nigel Mansell might have been induced to indulge in a little sabre-rattling, a bit of self-promotion. It was put to Hill that he might be feeling invincible after driving out some of the demons of last year by lapping Schumacher during the race on Sunday. He did not fall for that one.

"If I get the chance to rub it in, then I will," Hill said. "Lapping Michael brought a wry smile to my face but that was about it. There is still a long way to go and even if we are looking good at the moment. I am as much in competition with myself as I am with anybody else."

Suddenly, though, Hill has crept silently and unobtrusively into a position where he can launch his own assault on the pantheon of his sport. The win on Sunday took him beyond the total of 14 victories claimed by his late father, Graham, and into fifth place on the list of wins by British drivers.

Only Mansell with 31, Jackie Stewart with 27, Jim Clark with 25 and Stirling Moss with 16 have won more and Hill has a better win-per-start ratio than all of them bar Clark: better than Alain Prost's, better than Ayrton Senna's. Typically, Hill cannot quite believe that he is up there with the rest of them.

"It feels great," he said. "I am an enormous admirer of all the great racing drivers. I find it difficult to associate myself with those people even though I know that statistics are one of the things by which drivers are judged."

The final proving ground, the ultimate statistic of a world championship, appears to be there for the taking.

Hill: modest approach

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 43

JOSKIN

(b) A country bumpkin. A laborious pun on the countryman's dialect *joss* to bump + *kin*. "The best thing she could do was to go back and marry the *joskin* that followed the plough."

JUNCO

(c) The name of a North American genus of Finches, the Snow-birds. From the Spanish *junco aw*, Latin *juncus* a rush. "Birds which had been isolated might be presumed to have acquired some slight but real idiosyncrasy of voice and language. But if this is true of the Carolina junco, I failed to satisfy myself of the fact."

JOBBERNOWL

(b) A blockish or stupid head, a ludicrous term for the head, usually connoting stupidity. Evidently a portmanteau of *jobard* a fool + *noll* a head, but evidence of the historical connection is incomplete. "The Giant, heightened by the ell-long bonnet and feather on his huge jobbernowl."

JERKINHEAD

(b) The end of a roof not hipped down to the level of the opposite adjoining walls, the gable being carried higher than the level of those walls. Perhaps from *jerk*, as if the slope were *jerkily* interrupted. "A Jerkinhead is a form of roofing which is half-gable, half-hip. The gable generally goes as high as the ties of the couples, above which the roof is hipped off."

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RADIO CHOICE

The riddle of infidelity

The New Sexual Nature. *Radio 4, 8.30pm.*

Dr Gillian Rice says the key question that everyone is asking is: what does the unfaithful blue tit get out of having a "bit on the side?" Offhand, I can think of three dozen people who are not asking the question and are never likely to. Dr Rice is, of course, a bit of a leg-puller. Otherwise, in this programme about polygamy and monogamy, she wouldn't have dared to say, chapter and verse, that there aren't many men around these days who posess the status, wealth and good genes that are needed to make them perfect mates. She ends her series reassuringly. We humans, wether male or female are not wholly at the mercy of biology. We still have a say in shaping our sexual nature.

Horrors of the Horn. *Radio 3, 8.15pm.*

Sounding like the business end of a rhino, the horn discussed by Michael Thompson and Anthony Halstead in this interval feature is actually the brass instrument. Both men are horn players, and it's a pity we hear neither of them in action in tonight's Pebble Mill concert which includes Brahms's *Trio in E flat, OP 40*, and Ligeti's *Horn Trio*. The horn is a notoriously difficult instrument. Players can never be absolutely sure of hitting the right note. I don't know whether it is Thompson or Halstead, but one of them says the only way to cope with having missed a note is to tell himself that the sun will still rise tomorrow, and the buses will still run.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo 4.00am Charlie Jordan with the Early Breakfast Show **6.30** Chris Evans, incl Newsbeat with Tina Ritchie **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Lisa I'Anson, incl at 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Clive Warren, incl at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat, and at 6.00 the Drive-In **7.00** Evening Session **9.00** Cling Film **10.00** John Peel **Midnight** Wendy Lloyd

RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Hayes over Britain **8.30** Kalangadoo Junction (6/6) **9.00** Hootin' **10.00** The Ella Fitzgerald Song Books **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Steve Madden including at 1.30 Pause for Thought **3.00-6.00** Alex Lester, including at 3.30 Pause for Thought

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Report **6.00** The Breakfast Programme, incl 6.55, 7.55 racing preview **8.35** The Magazine, incl **10.35** News from Europe **11.30** Environment News **12.00** Midday with Mair, incl **12.34pm** Moneycheck **1.15** Entertainment News **2.05pm** Ruscoe on Five, incl **3.15** Prime Minister's Question Time **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide **5.45** Entertainment News **7.00** News Extra, with Valerie Sanderson **7.35** The Tuesday Match **10.05** News Talk **11.00** Night Extra, incl **11.15** The Financial World Tonight **12.05am** After Hours **2.05** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Warr **7.00** Simon Bates **10.00** Jonathan King **12.00** Tommy Boyd **2.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** Scott Chisholm **7.00** Sean Bolger **10.00** James Whale **1.00-6.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. **5.00am** Newsdesk **5.30** Europe Today **6.00** Newsday **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** World Today **7.30** Anything Goes **8.00** News **8.15** Off the Shelf **8.30** New Ideas **8.50** Songs for Children **9.00** News in German **9.15** Thirty-Minute Drama **9.45** Good Books **10.00** News **10.05** Business **10.15** In Good Voice **10.45** Sport **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** BBC English **11.45** Off the Shelf **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30** Meridian Feature **1.00** News in German **1.15** Britain Today **1.30** Jazz Score **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.05** Outlook **3.30** Multitrack: Hit List **4.00** News **4.05** Sports Roundup **4.15** BBC English **4.30** News in German **5.00** Europe Today **5.20** Business **5.45** Britain Today **6.00** News **6.10** World Today **6.25** Voicebox **6.30** News in German **7.00** Newsdesk **7.30** Jazz Score **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News Summary **9.01** Outlook **9.25** Words of Faith **9.30** Megamix **10.00** News **10.05** Business **10.15** Britain Today **10.30** Meridian Feature **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** World Today **11.45** Sports Roundup **Midnight** News **12.10am** Voicebox **12.15** Lets Go **12.30** Megamix **1.00** Newsdesk **1.30** Folk Routes **2.00** Newsdesk **2.30** Outlook **2.55** Words of Faith **3.00** Newsday **3.30** Meridian **4.00** News **4.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Mike Read **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Margaret Howard **2.00pm** Concerto **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Newsnight **6.30** Sonata **7.00** The Opera Guide **8.00** Evening Concert **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **9.00** Richard Skinner **12.00** Graham Dene **4.00pm** Nicky Horne **7.30** Paul Coyte **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00-6.00am** Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Bridge (String Quartet No 1): Khachaturian (Spartacus, Suite No 1); Field (Piano Sonata in B); Danzi (Fantasia); **8.05** Monteverdi (Mentre vaga Angoletta); Moeran (Overture for a Masque)
9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini. Chopin (Waltz in A flat, L'Adieu), Berlioz (Rêverie et caprice); Dvořák (O silver moon, Rusalka); Tchaikovsky (Suite No 2 in C)
10.00 Musical Encounters. *Artist of the Week*. Dawn Upshaw, soprano, sings Falla (Psyché); **10.10** Hindemith (Five pieces for strings); Schreker (Chamber Symphony), Chopin (Scherzo No 2 in B flat minor); Whettam (On the Beach at Night); Haydn (Symphony No 73 in D, La Chasse)
12.00 Composer of the Week. Schubert (Verschwunden Sind die Schmerzen; Overture, Die Vierjährige Posten; Gott! Höre meine Stimme; Piano Sonata in G; An die Freunde)
1.00pm BBC Festival of Brass 1996. Paul Hindmarsh presents the first of eight concerts. Williams Fairey Band under James Gourlay and Bryan Hurdley plays music by Peter Graham, Walton, arr Watson, Judith Bingham and Martin Ellerby
2.00 The BBC Orchestras: BBC Philarmonic in Oman, with Kathryn Stott, soprano. Rossini (Overture, William Tell); Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 5 in E flat, Emperor); Elgar (Variations on an Original Theme, Enigma)
3.30 Haydn's Seven Last Words, performed by the Rostov Quartet (r)
4.25 The BBC Orchestras. BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Grant Llewellyn. Finzi (Clarinet Concerto in C minor; David Campbell) (r)
5.00 The Music Machine: Music — a User's Manual. The definition and demonstration of instrumental techniques
5.15 In Tune. Lynne Walker talks to Phyllida Lloyd, who is directing Opera North's production of Cherubini's *Medea*. With music by Ravel, Haydn and Anthony Burgess
7.30 Pebble Mill, live from Studio One. Barry Douglas, piano, Valdine Anderson, soprano, Sebastian Bell, flute, Ernst Kovacic, violin, Richard Watkins, horn, play Brahms (Ballade in D); Birtwistle (Monody for Corpus Christi for soprano, flute, violin and horn); Ligeti (Horn Trio); **8.15 The Horrors of the Horn.** See Choice, **8.35** Holt (Malastra for flute); Brahms (Horn Trio in E flat)
9.40 Cultural Baggage: Fakes. *Does authenticity matter?* (17/20)
10.00 The BBC Orchestras. BBC Philharmonic under Yan Pascal Tortelier performs Dutilleux (Violin Concerto, L'Arbre des songes); Roussel (Bacchus et Ariane, Suite No 1)
10.45 Night Waves. Richard Coles reviews the writings of Kahlil Gibran, author of *The Prophet*
11.30 Composer of the Week. Rubbra (r)
12.30-1.00am Jazz Notes, with Digby Fairweather

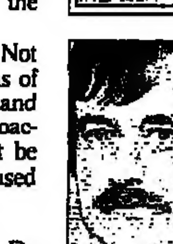
RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) **6.00** News Briefing and weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, incl **6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **7.25, 8.25** Sport **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Call Nick Ross: 0171-580 4444
10.00-10.30 News; Venom (FM only). The second of a four-part cultural and natural history of venomous animals looks at Scorpions
10.00 Daily Service (LW only)
10.15 This Sceptr'd Isle (LW only)
10.30 Woman's Hour. Serial: the final part of *Joyce Grenfell Requests the Pleasure*
11.30 Medicine Now, with Geoff Watts
12.00 News; You and Yours, with Lesley Riddoch
12.25pm Double Vision. Miles Kington and Edward Enfield return with the eccentric chat show based on the nice policeman/nasty policeman principle (1/4) **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Books and Company. John Walsh explores the literature of psychoanalysis (r)
2.30 Comparing Notes with Brian Kay. Brian Kay looks at the current scene in choir schools with Martin Neary from Westminster Abbey and Richard Seal from Salisbury Cathedral
3.00 The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brehan
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Vaughan reviews Melvyn Bragg's historical novel, *Credo*
4.45 Short Story: Easy Money, by Fred Davies. Read by *Kathryn Hunt*
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 The Board Game, chaired by Nigel Cassidy. The panellists are Adrian Chiles, Howard Hodgson, Alastair Ross Goobey and Janette Rutterford
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 File on 4. Jenny Cuffe reports
8.00 Science Now, presented by Peter Evans
8.30 The New Sexual Nature. See Choice
9.00 In Touch. Peter White presents news, views and information for visually impaired people
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hilton
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Stalin's Nose (2/10)
11.00 Mediumwave. The week in the media
11.30-12.00 Four Corners (FM only). Offbeat travel and unusual experiences. Anne Enright visits Dakar in Senegal. There are also reports from Joe Kerr in Paris and Michael Fitzpatrick in Japan's British Hills (5/6) (r)
11.30 Today in Parliament (LW)
12.00 News, incl **12.27** Weather
12.30 The Late Book: Devil in a Blue Dress, by Walter Mosley. Read by Paul Winfield (2/10)
12.48 Shipping Forecast **1.00 As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

Convincing the public is an inexact science

REVIEW



Peter Barnard

If my garden is bone dry when I go to bed tonight but spotted with puddles when I wake up tomorrow I am entitled to say that it has rained during the night. The fact that I have seen no rain fall is neither here nor there, but a scientist would ask me to consider the possibility that a 757 has emptied its water tanks over my house.

After a great cloud containing radioactive iodine spread along the southern part of Belorussia following the Chernobyl nuclear meltdown in 1986, there were 600 cases of thyroid cancer in children in the area over the next nine years. In the previous 20 years, there had been 20 cases. Ergo, the cloud caused the cancer as surely as the night brought the rain. Certain scientists wish us to believe that doctors have found cancer because they went looking for it.

The conclusion that the radioactive iodine caused the cancer is driven by common sense, which has wider implications. It explains, among other things, why the beef industry has temporarily collapsed: ordinary people take the view that if it looks like a duck and it quacks like a duck then it probably is a duck, whatever Stephen Dorrell might wish us to call it.

Thus was last night's **Horizon** (BBC2) a most timely update on the fallout, so to speak, from Chernobyl. Indeed *Horizon* had much to tell us about the BSE crisis. It had something to teach Mr Dorrell, too, especially concerning his fatal error in believing that the British public regards scientists as people who sit on the right hand of God.

Consider this: "I had one comment from an official in a major organisation saying it was quite wrong that we should have publicised that something was happening before we had absolute concrete proof and that it created a feeling of panic among the community."

No, not BSE but Chernobyl. Not feed infected from the remains of animals but food and water and the very air infected with radioactive iodine (which should not be confused with "stable iodine", used in many excellent treatments).

Two British scientists, Dr Keith Baverstock of the World Health Organisation and Professor Sir Dillwyn Williams of Cambridge University, have led the field in exposing the link between Chernobyl and thyroid cancer in children. Williams made the remark quoted above. He and Baverstock have made short shrift of the 1992 report, commissioned by the International Atomic Energy Agency, which claimed that there was no evidence of long-term health effects.

Horizon, which has done excellent work in pursuing the Chernobyl story over the years, suggested a possible link between that report from the IAEA, which is an American-dominated organisation, and American experiments with radioactive iodine after the Second World War.

In these, radioactive iodine was released into the atmosphere so that ways of controlling an escape of the material could be investigated. Clearly, any formal recognition that radioactive iodine caused cancer in Belorussia might bring some chickens home to roost back in the USA.

Horizon went to Belorussia, along with Baverstock and Williams. There we met dismayed parents and suffering children, none of whom had been told anything after Chernobyl. Even when soldiers arrived in their towns, washing down their houses and in some cases replacing their roofs with new ones, no reason was offered for this seemingly bizarre behaviour.

That is because in the then Soviet Union, ordinary mortals were not entitled to know anything. In Britain, things are different. The Soviet Union had a shackled media, we have a free one. The British Government says that the beef crisis is caused by "mad newspaper disease". Even if there is something in that, it is a benign infection, compared with the alternative.

With the exception of **This Life** (BBC2), I detest all soap opera. The rest of the genre is not worth a row of beans, for it creates utterly artificial climaxes at the end of each episode. Nothing could be further from real life.

Whereas *This Life* involves nothing much happening, but with a lot of panache. The show, with its third episode last night, has the five house mates fully up to speed (and various other drugs). Cleverly, the writer, Amy Jenkins, uses invasion by outsiders to create most of the tensions: last night it was the dreadful bulimic druggie Delilah, alleged "model", and the charming cancer victim McLeary.

Junior solicitor Egg, bored with a case about a lorry, gets a fillip when handed the McLeary file: "The best thing about him is that he isn't a lorry." Unfortunately Egg lets himself get emotionally involved, though not with any encouragement from McLeary.

At one point Egg makes an awkward stab at sympathy, telling McLeary it must be awful to know that you are going to die. McLeary's response throws away the standard textbook on dreary, soap opera pathos: "When are *you* going to die? No, I don't know either, so we're both in the same boat, mate."

McLeary was pursuing a compensation case because he believed drugs given him as a boy caused the cancer. But it never went to court: McLeary checked into a hospice and took an overdose. It turned out that he knew when he wanted to die.

Egg had learnt a lesson all solicitors need to learn early. As he said: "I think I get it now... McLeary is a lorry."

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (83956)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (78289)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (7206840)
9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (7439802)
9.45 Kilroy (s) (1599395) **10.30 Good Morning** (s) (64753)
12.00 News (Ceefax) (6292005) **12.05pm Room for Improvement** (s) (8070395)
12.35 Going for Gold with the effervescent Henry Kelly (s) (3121753)
1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) (71376)
1.30 Regional News and weather (94863550)
1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (44972314)
2.00 FILM: A Twist of the Knife (1993). Medical mystery starring Dick Van Dyke, Suzanne Pleshette and Barry Van Dyke. Directed by Jerry London (61395)
3.30 Playdays (r) (1011208) **3.50 Bodger and Badger** (r) (s) (7038482) **4.00** (r) **Alvin and the Chipmunks** (5005163) **4.10 Dennis the Menace** (Ceefax) (s) (2201395) **4.35 Out of Tune** (Ceefax) (s) (9800005) **5.00 Newsround** (Ceefax) (1313956) **5.10 The Lowdown** (Ceefax) (s) (1502260)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (367482)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) (53)
6.30 Regional news magazines (55)
7.00 Holiday. Vacation ideas from home and abroad (Ceefax) (s) (6395)
7.30 EastEnders. Peggy's matchmaking begins to annoy Grant (Ceefax) (s) (89)
8.00 Great Ormond Street. Doctors deliberate over whether to operate to remove six-year-old Hayley's cancerous tumour or to continue with a course of chemotherapy (Ceefax) (5043)
8.30 The Brittas Empire. Against the odds, a bright idea from Brittas has become a European directive (4550)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax) regional news and weather (5260)
9.30 Men Behaving Badly. Gary and Tony stretch the boundaries of good taste even further. With Martin Clunes and Neil Morrissey (r) (Ceefax) (s) (99821)
10.00 CHOICE **Cardiac Arrest** (Ceefax) (s) (82043) **N.I.: 10.00** Down the Street of Dreams **11.10** Cardiac Arrest **11.40** They Think It's All Over **12.10am** The Road to Golgotha **12.25** A Reflection for Passover **12.40** FILM: Jake Speed **2.20** Weather
10.30 They Think It's All Over. Nick Hancock comperes a game of laddish wit and sporting knowledge with David Gower, Gary Lineker, Rory McGrath and Lee Hurst. The guests are Kriss Akabusi and John Gordon Sinclair (37937)
11.30 The Road to Golgotha. Rob Duncan reflects on the trial of Jesus (s) (937753)
11.45 A Reflection for Passover. With Rabbi Leslie Olsberg (s) (932208)
12.00 FILM: From Noon Till Three (1976) with Charles Bronson and Jill Ireland. Uneasy comedy western about a small-time outlaw having an affair with a woman who (believing him dead) turns him into a fictional hero. Directed by Frank D. Gilroy (151613)
1.35am Weather (5838845)

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BBC2

6.00am Open University: A Feel for Space (7030550) **6.25** Industrial Democracy (7059685) **6.50** Working Mothers (8033227) **7.15 See Hear Breakfast News** (Ceefax and signing) (4110550) **7.30 The Record** (7903598)
7.55 Christopher Crocodile (r) (1723579) **8.00 Poddington Peas** (r) (5741444) **8.05 Oakie Doke** (r) (s) (5764395) **8.15 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles** (r) (Ceefax) (7252753) **8.40 Blue Peter** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (8950937) **9.05 Mighty Max** (s) (7456579) **9.30 Activ8** (r) (Ceefax) (45181) **10.00 Playdays** (r) (s) (6284111)
10.25 Star Trek (r) (4596208) **10.50 The Tick** (r) (1457260) **11.10 Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased)** (r) (8125005) **12.00 See Hear!** (Ceefax and signing) (89956) **12.30pm Working Lunch** (17227)
1.00 Poddington Peas (r) (16971918) **1.05 Oakie Doke** (r) (s) (42194531)
1.15 Consuming Passions (r) (16969173) **1.20 Speaking of Courage** (3815314) **2.10 The Andrew Neil Show** (s) (5401192) **3.00 News** (Ceefax) (7167550) **3.05 Westminster** (Ceefax) (s) (7157685) **3.55 News** (Ceefax) (2394024)
4.00 Today's the Day (s) (18) **4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook** (s) (42) **5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show** (Ceefax) (s) (4986181)

Clare Short, Labour MP (5.40pm)

5.40 CHOICE **The Ladies of the House: Clare Short, MP** (896579)
6.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air (s) (336173)
6.25 Heartbreak High (Ceefax) (s) (234192)
7.10 The Ren and Stimpy Show (Ceefax) (s) (929227)
7.30 From the Edge. Magazine made for and by disabled people about issues which affect them. Mike Scarlet wheels his way onto the catwalk to talk to disabled models who are making it in the fashion world (Ceefax) (s) (31)
8.00 One Foot in the Past: Brunel. A celebration of the world's first modern engineer, Isambard Kingdom Brunel (r) (3685)
8.30 Food and Drink. Fish stew, Easter lamb and reasonably priced rosé wines are briskly dealt with tonight (Ceefax) (s) (2192)
9.00 Murder One. Legal drama following a single high-profile case both in and out of the courtroom. (Ceefax) (s) (158395)
9.45 Straight from the Heart. Documentary series about true-life love (Ceefax) (s) (123260)
10.30 Newsnight. With Kirsty Wark (Ceefax) (431111)
11.15 Moving Pictures. Film magazine, presented by Howard Schuman. David Lynch's *Lost Highways* on location; Oscar-winning Susan Sarandon on *Dead Man Walking*; a Kieslowski tribute (290116)
12.00 The Midnight Hour with Lesley Riddoch (s) (12574)
12.30am-6.00 The Learning Zone

CHOICE

The Ladies of the House
BBC2, 5.40pm

Gloria Hunniford talks to nine women MPs, and Baroness Castle of Blackburn, about life in a male-dominated world. Clare Short, Labour's Transport Shadow, opens the series in typically combative mood, and although the interview goes over mainly familiar ground she gives good value. Her attempt to ban Page Three girls inevitably comes up. The surprise is not so much the abuse she received from the newspapers she attacked as the sniggering reaction of fellow (male) MPs. The House of Commons, she says, can be tough and very cruel. She thinks it would be a better place with more women in it, though not because all woman are saints. As to whether she would make a good Prime Minister, Short offers no false modesty. But she admits she is not the kind of person likely to be offered the job.

Without Walls
Channel 4, 9.00pm

The journalist Jaci Stephen delivers a passionate tirade against laddishness, as represented by *Men Behaving Badly*, *Fantasy Football League* and *Loaded* magazine. These new lads, she says, are really old, sexist lads reconstituted, and they are turning their backs on the real world in a mindless pursuit of booze, women and football. Stephen's theory is that the phenomenon is a response to increasing powerlessness and vulnerability. She even gets some men to agree. In tonight's other film the creator and original cast of *Z-Cars* recall a mould-breaking television police series. For the actors, there was the terror of going out live. For the viewer, a hard and unsentimental view of policing replaced the cosiness of *Dixon of Dock Green*. Some real police officers applauded, others thought the show gave the force a bad image.

Cardiac Arrest: The Body Electric
BBC1, 10.00pm

It is a curious show that can carry a serious discussion about donating human organs for transplants but at other times seems like a 1990s remake of *Carry On Doctor*. John MacUre's series can certainly claim to be unlike any other medical drama. But this is mainly because it mixes so many moods, from black humour to no humour, from the facetious to the heart-stopping. When a man is brought in with a brain haemorrhage there is ribald comment among the junior doctors. He collapsed while he was enjoying his conjugal rights, ho, ho. But his young wife, soon to be his widow, is not amused and perhaps we should not be either. There is a better joke, for those with a taste for such things, about a patient who bites off another man's finger and swallows it. "Try vomiting," suggests the consultant.

Savage Skies: Monsters from the Deep
ITV, 10.40pm (Scottish 11.15pm, Ulster 11.10pm)

Typhoons, cyclones, hurricanes — they are the same thing under different names but all can be terrifyingly destructive. "It sounded like the end of the world," says a Florida woman of Hurricane Andrew, which in 1992 destroyed 200,000 homes and businesses and claimed 58 lives. This is a compelling series, deftly mixing meteorological explanation with human stories and backing both with spectacular footage. Although hurricanes can be detected early, once they get going nothing can stop them. No wonder the American Indians settled well away from coasts. Britain does not have hurricanes. The 122mph gusts which ravaged southern England in October 1987 were a storm, though those caught in it may think the distinction academic. Peter Waymark

HTV

6.00am GMTV (9200276)
9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (s) (7447821)
9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (6261260)
10.00 The Time... the Place (s) (2874753)
10.35 This Morning (44674753)
12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (6298289)
12.30 News and weather (Teletext) (3117550)
12.55 Shortland Street (s) (3132869)
1.25 High Road (Teletext) (5358111) **2.00 Home and Away** (Teletext) (s) (54061376) **2.25 Chain Letters** (Teletext) (s) (54073111) **2.50 Vanessa** (Teletext) (s) (4319685)
3.20 News (Teletext) (7174840)
3.25 Regional News (Teletext) (7173111)
3.30 The Magic House (s) (8219395) **3.40 Tots TV** (7034666) (r) (s) **3.50 Sooty and Co** (r) (s) (1000192) **4.15 Animaniacs** (r) (Teletext) (s) (2295734) **4.40 Island** (Teletext) (5790685)
5.10 Yan Can Cook. Chinese cookery made simple (3973622)
5.40 News and weather (Teletext) (883005)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (s) (363227)
6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (514840)
7.00 Emmerdale. Dave finally puts his foot down with Kim (Teletext) (s) (1463)
7.30 West Eye View. Investigative current affairs (Teletext) (85)
8.00 The Bill: Party Pooper. Questions are raised about Slater when he appears to mishandle two thugs at a party (s) (9181)
8.30 Married for Life. Pam and Ted's neighbours need their approval to build an extra room, but no agreement can be reached on who should have the final say (Teletext) (s) (6918)

Shepherd and Wickham (9.00pm)

9.00 Peak Practice. Erica's intervention on the part of a kidney patient affects Will's opinion of her. With Simon Shepherd and Saskia Wickham (Teletext) (s) (8227)
10.00 News and weather (Teletext) (77111)
10.30 Regional News (717753)
10.40 CHOICE **Savage Skies: Monsters from the Deep** (Teletext) (631024)
11.40 Prisoner Cell Block H (764111)
12.35 FILM: In Love and War (1987) starring Jane Alexander, James Woods and Haing S. Ngor. Graphic portrayal of the lives of a married couple in the US military. While he languishes in a Hanoi prison in Vietnam for eight years, she steadfastly campaigns for news and highlights the plight of military wives. Directed by Paul Aaron (561628)
2.25 Late & Loud (s) (7219135)
3.25 The Chart Show (r) (s) (3029834)
4.20 Football Extra (r) (5201406)
5.00 The West at Work (65512)
5.30 Morning News (40357)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except:
5.10pm-5.40 The Really Helpful Programme (3973622)
6.25-7.00 Wales Tonight (514840)
7.30-8.00 Grass Roots (85)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.25-12.30 My Story (8206208)
12.55 Emmerdale (3132869)
1.25-1.55 Chain Letters (79558005)
1.55 Home and Away (68658260)
2.25 Vanessa (54064463)
2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (9717640)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (3973622)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (89444)
7.30-8.00 Wild West Country (85)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55 Home and Away (3132869)
1.25 Chain Letters (79558005)
1.55 A Country Practice (44953289)
2.20 Vanessa (54065192)
2.50-3.20 Rustie's Real Cooks (4319685)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (3973622)
6.25-7.00 Central News and Weather (514840)
7.30-8.00 Heart of the Country (85)
11.40 Central Sports Special (580314)
12.45am Film: Turn Back the Clock (835715)
2.30 Late & Loud (4484593)
3.25 Hotel Babylon (9850845)
4.05 Funny Business (40895932)
4.30 Jobfinder (9090970)
5.20 Asian Eye (1551338)

MERIDIAN

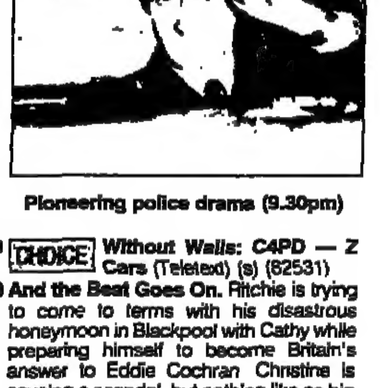
As HTV West except:
12.55pm Chain Letters (3132869)
1.25 Home and Away (79558005)
1.55 Shortland Street (44953289)
2.20 Vanessa (54065192)
2.50-3.20 A Tale of Four Sea Ports (4319685)
5.10 Home and Away (3973622)
5.37-5.40 Three Minutes - Making It Happen (420460)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (21)
6.30-7.00 Michael Barry's Undiscovered Cooks (73)
7.30-8.00 Serve You Right Live (85)
5.00am Freescreen (65512)

S4C

Starts: 6.35 Fifteen to One (8007802) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (94227) **9.00 Saved by the Bell: The New Class** (7442376) **9.25 New Gamesmaster** (7445463) **9.55 California Dreams** (6028550) **10.20 Mork and Mindy** (6280395) **10.50 Dennis** (4975869) **11.05 Extreme** (3283005) **12.00 House to House** (74024) **12.30pm Earthworm Jim** (45145) **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (97314) **1.30 Keepers of the Kingdom** (94579) **2.30 Australia Wild** (34) **3.00 Food File** (7024) **3.30 Go Fishing** (79) **4.00 Jimmy's** (14) **4.30 Saved by the Bell: The New Class** (98) **5.00 5 Pump: Uned 5** (9869) **5.30 Fifteen to One** (50) **6.00 Newyddion** (729869) **6.15 Heno** (230376) **7.00 Pobol Y Cwm** (641937) **7.25 Sgrin Ti Synied?** (892550) **8.00 Dau Rhys (Ar Frys)** (8753) **8.30 Newyddion** (7260) **9.00 And the Beat Goes On** (6869) **10.00 Brookside** (75753) **10.30 Cutting Edge: Stepfamilies** (20647) **11.30 Father Ted** (47821) **12.00am J'accuse: The New Lads** (30970) **12.30 C4D: Z Cars** (25311)

CHANNEL 4

6.35am Fifteen to One (r) (Teletext) (s) (8007802)
7.00 The Big Breakfast. Includes Frank Bruno talking about his brief bout with Mike Tyson and his future career (94227)
9.00 Saved by the Bell: The New Class (r) (s) (7442376) **9.25 New Gamesmaster** (r) (Teletext) (s) (7445463)
9.55 California Dreams (r) (6028550) **10.20 Mork and Mindy** (r) (6280395) **10.50 Dennis** (r) (4975869)
11.05 Extreme (r) (Teletext) (s) (3283005)
12.00 House to House (74024)
12.30pm Sesame Street (86550) **1.30 A Box Full of Stories** (Teletext) (s) (95686)
2.00 FILM: Knight Without Armour (1937, b/w) with Robert Donat, Marlene Dietrich and John Clements. A romantic adventure set in post-Revolution Russia. Directed by Jacques Feyder (Teletext) (8840)
4.00 Jimmy's (r) (Teletext) (s) (14) **4.30 Fifteen to One** (Teletext) (s) (98) **5.00 The Montel Williams Show** (Teletext) (s) (7759208) **5.50 Terrytoons** (775537)
6.00 The Avengers (r) (Teletext) (10314)
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (649395)
7.55 The Slot (966918)
8.00 Motor Mania. The penultimate programme in the series tracing the story of motoring looks at the long tradition of bad driving (Teletext) (8753)
8.30 Brookside. (Teletext) (s) (7260)
9.00 CHOICE **Without Walls: J'Accuse — The New Lads.** (Teletext) (s) (8598)



Pioneering police drama (9.30pm)

9.30 CHOICE **Without Walls: C4PD — Z Cars** (Teletext) (s) (82531)
10.00 And the Beat Goes On. Ritchie is trying to come to terms with his disastrous honeymoon in Blackpool with Cathy while preparing himself to become Britain's answer to Eddie Cochran. Christine is causing a scandal, but nothing like as big as the one caused by her mother (Teletext) (s) (3735208)
11.05 Big Mouth. The third of a series of nine programmes in which the opinionated Tony Parsons discusses anything under the sun with his guests (s) (396802)
12.10am Nurses. Casey and Hank get to know their enemies when Jack tricks Casey on a date (Teletext) (s) (1060999)
12.40 Football Italia — Mezzanotte. Udinese v Sampdoria (4785390)
1.40 FILM: Shining Victory (1941, b/w) starring James Stephenson, Geraldine Fitzgerald and Montagu Love. A romantic weepie, based on A.J. Cronin's play *Jupiter Laughs*, about a brilliant research scientist who is forced to work in a Scottish mental hospital when a jealous rival steals his papers. At the hospital he finds love, tragedy and his true vocation. Directed by Irving Rapper (6355203). Ends at **3.00am**

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**

SKY ONE

7.00am Undun (16463) **9.00** Press Your Luck (6928821) **9.20** Love Connection (9155550) **9.45** The Oprah Winfrey Show (5055276) **10.40** Jeopardy! (2131550) **11.10** Sally Jessy Raphael (9649482) **12.00** Beechy (41208) **1.00pm** Hotel (50956) **2.00** Geraldo (71802) **3.00** Court TV (3840) **3.30** The Oprah Winfrey Show (5001598) **4.15** Undun (3658647) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (4192) **6.00** The Simpsons (4043) **6.30** Jeopardy! (5395) **7.00** LAPD (5821) **7.30** M*A*S*H (1579) **8.00** Jag (80111) **9.00** The X-Files (77647) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (70734) **11.00** Melrose Place (36227) **12.00** Late Show (7680406) **12.45am** Trails of Rosie O'Neill (9129244) **1.30** Daddy Dearest (99680) **2.00** Hit Mix (3808572)

SKY NEWS

News on the hour
5.30 Fashion TV (93463) **10.30** ABC Nightline (13032) and Business (251024) **1.30** CBS News (77937) **2.30** Parliament (4378043) **3.15** Parliament (4792024) and Business (34444) **5.00** Live at Five (41579) **6.30** Tonight (66550) **7.30** Sportsline (61289) **8.30** Target (8918) (808280) **11.30** CBS News (48578) **12.30** ABC News (35970) **1.30** Tonight (31425) **2.30** Target (53222) **3.30** Parliament (65067) **4.30** CBS News (47574) **5.30** ABC News (77425)

SKY MOVIES

6.00am The Hunchback of Notre Dame (1939) (18314) **8.00 Mighty Joe Young** (1949) (95482) **10.00 Split Infinity** (1992) (12289) **12.00 Kiss Me Goodbye** (1982) (56005) **2.00pm Visions of Terror** (1994) (94314) **4.00 Give Me a Break** (1993) (97095) **5.30 Octopussy** (1983) (433531) **8.00 The Chase** (1994) (86395) **10.00 Showdown in Little Tokyo** (1991) (1602802) **11.20 The Piano** (1993) (243289) **1.20am All Shook Up!** (1993) (2604057) **2.50 Body Bags** (1993) (4908999) **4.20-6.00 Kiss Me Goodbye** (1982) (215785)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm The Enemy Below (1957) (8956) **6.00 The Barbarian and the Geisha** (1958) (56192) **8.00 Operation Daybreak** (1975) (68937) **10.00 Wanted: Dead or Alive** (1986) (836753) **11.55 Little Shop of Horrors** (1960) (927821) **1.10am Bigger Than Life** (1956) (919425) **2.50-4.20 All Night Long** (1981) (6596883)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Meet Me in Las Vegas (1956) (16956) **8.00 Beauty and the Beast** (1992) (50227) **9.00 Aladdin** (1993) (45208) **10.00 My Favourite Spy** (1951) (24531) **12.00 Tekwar: Tek Justice** (1994) (83647) **2.00pm Cradle of Conspiracy** (1994) (92956) **4.00 Rookie of the Year** (1993) (7666) **6.00 Tekwar: Tek Justice** (1994) (37289) **7.30 Special Feature: Cut Throat Island** (4289) **8.00 Forbidden Memories** (1995) (84937) **10.00 Blink** (1993) (938685) **11.45 Shattered Trust** (1993) (471014) **1.20am The Adventures of the Flying Pickle** (1993) (285845) **3.05 My Favourite Spy** (1951) (508574) **4.45-6.00 Beauty and the Beast** (1992) (7705357)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over from 10pm to 4am.
6.00am Quack Attack (49868579) **6.30** Chip 'n' Dale (49296482) **7.00** Ducktales (10625821) **7.30** Winnie the Pooh (10644956) **8.00** Quack Attack (93808531) **8.30** Chip 'n' Dale (93805802) **9.00** The Shnookums (93829482) **9.30** Quack Attack (13283591) **10.00** Ducktales (49287734) **10.30** Chip 'n' Dale (93825666) **11.00** Winnie the Pooh (42294666) **11.30** Quack Attack (42295395) **12.00** Walt Disney Presents (20938424) **1.00pm** FILM: Heidi — Part Two (28406734) **2.35** Making of the Three Musketeers (77950289) **3.00** Quack Attack (87179956) **3.30** Ducktales (80670869) **4.00** Chip 'n Dale (80859376) **4.30** The Shnookums (80848260) **5.00** Boy Meets World (87141173) **5.30** Danger Bay (80862840) **6.00** Tarzan (80869753) **6.30** Dinosaurs (80850005) **7.00** Thunder Alley (87161937) **7.30** FILM: Three Musketeers (14214555) **9.30-10.00** Dinosaurs (29588983)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Motorcycling (20444) **9.00** Extreme Games (83482) **10.00** Speed (6591821) **10.15** Speedworld (65919192) **12.00** Football (97376) **1.00pm** Ski Surfing (59192) **1.30** Adventure (17579) **2.30** Surfing (8666) **3.00** Extreme Games (95579) **4.00** Snowboarding (9918) **4.30** Surfing (8802) **5.00** Karting (2376) **6.00** Four-wheels (9395) **6.30** Skeleton (7537) **7.00** Funboard (35685) **8.00** Live Boxing (15821) **10.00** Football (87550) **12.00-12.30am** Snowboarding (18796)

SKY SPORTS

7.00am Sports Centre (55753) **7.30** Tartan Extra (48840) **8.30** Racing News (85043) **9.00** Aerobics Oz Style (76395) **9.30** Monday Night Football — The Race for the Title (887463) **12.00** Snooker: British Open (3763685) **5.00pm** Max Out (8173) **5.30** Rebel TV (7314) **6.00** Sports Centre (4227) **6.30** Skiff Sailing (5579) **7.00** Snooker: British Open (295276) **10.00** Sports Centre (57260) **10.30** The Footballer's Football Show (58579) **11.30** Asian Football Show (86753) **12.30am** Skiff Sailing (77951) **1.00** Snowboard Tour (95390) **1.30-2.00** Sports Centre (2796)

SKY SPORTS GOLD

10.00pm Golden Rugby (7664145) **10.30** Golden Gloves with Barry Mcguigan (9119918) **11.30** The Golden Age of Motor Racing (3837802) **12.30am-1.00** Blood, Sweat and Glory (7048241)

THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL

4.00am Living Word **5.00** Kenneth Copeland **5.30** Kidz TV **5.45** Chronicles of Revival **6.15** Colin Dye **6.45-7.00** Christian Music Television

SKY SOAP

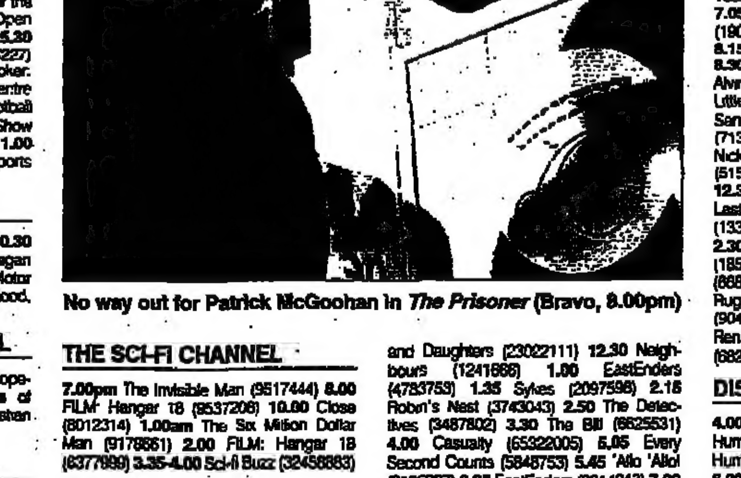
7.00am Guiding Light (8160395) **7.55** As the World Turns (1740227) **8.50** Peyton Place (3885840) **9.20** Days of Our Lives (2303495) **10.10-11.00** Another World (3498444)

SKY TRAVEL

11.00 Globetrotter (7273937) **11.30** Trailside: Making Your Own Adventure (7274666) **12.00** Dive the World (8014686) **12.30pm** The Real Food of China (1663192) **1.00** Getaway (3492043) **1.30** Around the World... in 30 Minutes (1662463) **2.00** Discover America (5225109) **3.00** Globetrotter (4509734) **3.30** Around the World... in 30 Minutes (7712956) **3.55-4.00** Holiday Shop (10791482)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Great Sea Battles of World War II (7264289) **5.00** Lord Mountbatten (4523314) **6.00-7.00** Biography (1677111)



No way out for Patrick McGoohan in *The Prisoner* (Bravo, 8.00pm)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

7.00pm The Invisible Man (9517444) **8.00** FILM: Hangar 18 (9537208) **10.00** Close (8012314) **1.00am** The Six Million Dollar Man (9178661) **2.00** FILM: Hangar 18 (8377999) **3.35-4.00** Sci-fi Buzz (32458883)

TLC

9.00am Surprise Chefs (3365937) **9.30** Grow Your Own (1238192) **10.00** Two's Country (4214376) **10.30** Our House (3354821) **11.00** Room for Improvement (7446289) **11.30** Craftwise (7447918) **12.00** Julia Child (3345173) **12.30pm** The Frugal Gourmet (1249208) **1.00** Yan Can Cook (1385531) **1.30** Furniture to Go (1248579) **2.00** Our House (8786005) **2.30** Gardens Without Borders (6651956) **3.00** Screaming Reels (8798840) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (6623173)

UK GOLD

7.00am Angels (1395918) **7.30** Neighbours (1307753) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (3344444) **8.30** EastEnders (3376043) **9.00** The Bill (3367395) **9.30** The Sullivans (1230550) **10.00** The Bill Originals (1303937) **11.00** Bullseye (7448647) **11.30** Odd One Out (9432734) **12.05pm** Sons and Daughters (23022111) **12.30** Neighbours (1241666) **1.00** EastEnders (4783753) **1.35** Sykes (2097598) **2.15** Robin's Nest (3743043) **2.50** The Detectives (3487802) **3.30** The Bill (6625531) **4.00** Casualty (65322005) **5.05** Every Second Counts (5848753) **5.45** 'Allo 'Allo! (9125227) **6.25** EastEnders (9314043) **7.00** The Best of Top of the Pops (8265591) **7.40** Top of the Pops Short (7207024) **8.00** Bullseye (8708227) **8.30** The Detectives (8787734) **9.00** The Sweeney (4176685) **10.00** The Bill (2247289) **10.35** Classic Sport (6968111) **11.35** Miami Vice (6391111) **12.35am** FILM: A Bullet for the General (6278406) **2.30-3.00** Shopping (6395628)

TCC

6.00am Tiny and Crew (83918) **7.00** Sesame Street (42004) **8.00** Barney and Friends (15208) **8.30** Dinobabies (14579) **9.00** Art Attack (9727735) **9.15** The Very Best of No Naked Flames (7737463) **9.30** Ready or Not (34821) **10.00** Heartbreak High (32208) **10.30** Hang Time (27043) **11.00** Madison (32024) **11.30** Babysitters Club (33753) **12.00** Garfield and Friends (18395) **12.30pm** The Twisted Tales of Felix the Cat (45937) **1.00** Earthworm Jim (72314) **1.30** Creepy Crawlers (44208) **2.00** Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventures (8579) **2.30** Gravedale High (7956) **3.00** Eek the Cat (7774) **3.30** The New Pink Panther Show (9173) **4.00** California Dreams (8208) **4.30-5.00** Heartbreak High (7192)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Henry's Cat (1784444) **6.15** Blue, Child of the Earth (513463) **6.45** Toucan Tecs (8596550) **7.00** Batfink (2999463) **7.05** Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (1900005) **7.45** Rugrats/Doug (518918) **8.15** Aaahh!!! Real Monsters (9345111) **8.30** Rocko's Modern Life (83685) **9.00** Alvin and the Chipmunks (74937) **9.30** The Littlest Pet Shop (10227) **10.00** Banana Sandwich featuring Bananas in Pyjamas (71314) **11.00** Children's BBC on Nickelodeon featuring Pingu and Spider (51550) **12.00** Magic School Bus (54173) **12.30pm** Grimmy (14043) **1.00** Denver the Last Dinosaur (62666) **1.30** Visionaries (13314) **2.00** The Littlest Pet Shop (5463) **2.30** Children's BBC on Nickelodeon (18537) **3.30** Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (6685) **4.00** The Ferals (5192) **4.30** Rugrats/Doug (1376) **5.00** Sister Sister (9043) **5.30** Mission Top Secret (5956) **6.00** Ren and Stimpy (2869) **6.30-7.00** Clarissa (6821)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Time Travellers (6642208) **4.30** Human/Nature (6631192) **5.00** Treasure Hunters (8700685) **5.30** Voyager (6622444) **6.00** Paramedics (6652685) **6.30** Beyond 2000 (9332531) **7.30** Arthur C Clarke's World of Strange Powers (6632821) **8.00** Buried in Ash (4154463) **9.00** Battlefield (4174227) **10.00** Battlefield (4177314) **11.00-12.00** Subel (1302208)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM: The Mesa of Lost Women (9644208) **1.30pm** Death Valley Days (1235005) **2.00** The Wild Wild West (4202531) **3.00** Danger Man (7436360) **4.00** FILM: Who? (8796482) **6.00** The Green Hornet (6649111) **6.30** The Persuaders (9369685) **7.30** Sapphire and Steel (6638647) **8.00** The Prisoner (4158289) **9.00** Alien Nation (4161753) **10.00-12.00** FILM: Parasite (7437531)

PARAMOUNT

7.00pm Diff'rent Strokes (6579) **7.30** Entertainment (2005) **8.00** Benson (5227) **8.30** Wings (4734) **9.00** Soap (76444) **9.30** Taxi (58109) **10.00** Entertainment (55802) **10.30** Bosom Buddies (64550) **11.00** Pigsty (88289) **11.30** Sledgehammer (64395) **12.30am** Benson (75593) **1.00** Wings (93932) **1.30** Laverne and Shirley (40338) **2.00** Entertainment (37951) **2.30** Bosom Buddies (56086) **3.00** Pigsty (13796) **3.30-4.00** Sledgehammer (47338)

UK LIVING

6.00am Kilroy (5375043) **7.00** Esther (5965482) **8.30** Ornamental Kitchen Garden (8175918) **9.00** The Reluctant Cook (8197463) **9.35** Kate and Allie (8695173) **10.05** Jerry Springer (8185598) **11.00** Young and Restless (6661463) **11.55** Brookside (4470024) **12.30pm** Dangerous Women (9942208) **1.25** Crosswits (6212666) **2.00** Agony Hour (2975647) **3.00** Live at Three (8243821) **4.00** Infatuation UK (2800802) **4.30** Crosswits (3597840) **5.05** Lingo (32899294) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (2820666) **6.00** Bewitched (2827579) **6.30** Brookside (6508043) **7.05** Masterchef '92 (3001109) **7.35** Joker's Wild (6454111) **8.05** Street Legal (9882227) **9.00** FILM: Original Sin (3472647) **11.00-12.00** Erogenous Zone (4546005)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Boogies Diner (2531) **5.30** Night Hood (8444) **6.00** Batman (8685) **6.30** Catchphrase (9937) **7.00** Trivial Pursuit (2395) **7.30** Me and the Boys (8821) **8.00** FILM: Get Smart Again! (64111) **10.00** Treasure Hunt (50918) **11.00** Sirens (59463) **12.00** Trivial Pursuit (36116) **12.30am** Me and the Boys (20087) **1.00** Batman (62086) **1.30** GP (66154) **2.00** The Black Stallion (60067) **2.30** Sirens (42154) **3.30** GP (83154) **4.00** Trivial Pursuit (71319) **4.30-5.00** Night Hood (43951)

MTV

7.30am Duran Duran (61208) **8.00** Morning Mix (782840) **11.00** Hit List UK (70956) **12.00** Greatest Hits (26802) **1.00pm** Music Non-Stop (15531) **3.00** Select MTV (46227) **4.00** Hanging Out (3260) **6.00** Dial MTV (8753) **6.30** Sports (1395) **7.00** US Top 20 Countdown (53005) **8.00** Celebrity Mix (62753) **9.00** Oasis — Definitely the Whole Story (21918) **9.30** Amour (51753) **10.30** The Maxx (97802) **11.00** Presidents of the USA (99460) **1.00am** Night Videos (1622241) **5.00** Morning Mix (89681)

VH-1

7.00am Power Breakfast (3491314) **9.00** Cafe VH-1 (8100258) **12.00** Heart and Soul (1684685) **1.00pm** The Vinyl Years (1660005) **2.00** The Specials (3425127) **3.00** Into the Music (1007289) **6.00** Happy Hour (1880869) **7.00** VH-1 for You (9519802) **8.00** Tuesday Review (9528550) **9.00** David Cassidy (9548314) **10.00** The Vinyl Years (9518173) **11.00** Tommy Vance (3654579) **1.00am** Tim Rice (9187319) **2.00** Dawn Patrol

CMT EUROPE

Country music from **6am** to **7pm on satellite, 24-hours on cable.** Including **5.00pm** Saturday Nite Dance Ranch **6.00-7.00** Big Ticket

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran (46111173) **7.30** Zee Presents (37504869) **9.00** Tamil Serial: Kanna Moochi (26200024) **9.30** Naye Tarrane (25658685) **10.00** Kurukshetra (38853666) **10.30** Andaz (26206208) **11.00** Khoobsurat (68130802) **11.30** Gujarati Movie (33891555) **2.30pm** Buniyaad (83092579) **3.00** Yaadon Ke Rang (27941314) **3.30** Rang Tarang (31362395) **4.30** Awaaz Nayee Andaz Wohi (83005043) **5.00** Zee Zone (27913531) **5.30** Bhangra Revisited (83096395) **6.00** Sitaron Ka Karvan (83093208) **6.30** Zee and U (83077260) **7.00** Urdu Serial (95435685) **8.00** News (27942043) **8.30** Aap Ki Adalat (27921550) **9.00-12.00** Hindi FILM: Kismat (29452111)

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 5am to 7pm, then TNT films as below.
7.00pm The Courtship of Eddie's Father (1963) (10643227) **9.00 Marlowe** (1969) With James Garner as the private eye (85315463) **11.00 The Last Run** (1971) (28485024) **12.40 The Romantic Englishwoman** (1975) (92740116) **2.45-5.00 Courtship of Eddie's Father** (1963) (67413715)

CNN/QVC

CNN provides 24-hour news and QVC is the home shopping channel.

PERFORMANCE

7.00pm The Royal Ellington **8.00** Aria **8.30** Prokofiev's Romeo and Juliet from Convent Garden **11.00** Opera Stories — Die Fledermaus **12.00-1.00** Bob Wilber — A Tribute to Sidney Bechet

RACING 43
HILLS GAMBLES PAYING OFF IN GAME OF PATIENCE

SPORT

MOTOR RACING 46
TRIUMPHANT HILL FOCUSES ON THE ROAD AHEAD

Muscling in: Kristol, the Oxford cox, lines up with his colleagues for the official Boat Race weigh-in held at the Hurlingham Club yesterday. Photograph: Des Jenson

Crews maintain the balance of probabilities

By Mike Rosewell, rowing correspondent

IN A year when followers of rowing seem more uncertain of the outcome of the Boat Race on Saturday than the bookmakers, the official weigh-in at the Hurlingham Club yesterday did little to clarify the situation. Oxford were found to have an advantage of just 1lb per man.

Ladbrokes and William Hill quote Cambridge as favourites, the former at 7-2 on, the latter at 2-1. Oxford are quoted at 9-4 and 6-4 respectively.

Despite Cambridge having the oldest competitor — Nick Burfitt, 29, a veteran of the Seoul and Barcelona Olympics — the average age difference between the crews is also minimal, Cambridge the elder at 23 years nine months, Oxford at 23 years six months.

According to Adam Frost, the Oxford stroke and the youngest performer at 21 years and five months, age is not an issue. In his case, with Great Britain junior honours and an impressive Henley record from 1991 to 1993 in Eton's colours, he could be right. His attitude is a mature one. "The Boat Race is very different from rowing at school level. It's stimulating because it's scary."

The only record of the day was claimed by Ethan Ayer, of the United States, Cambridge's No 5 man and a recipient of one of the university's Alf Twinn rowing bursaries. A tape-measure found him to be 6ft 8¾ins tall, beating the height record of 6ft 8½ins set by Gavin Stewart, who stroked Oxford to their win in 1987, the "mutiny" year. Ayer's compatriot, Todd Kristol, the Oxford cox, nearly earned a different height record when he admitted to being 5ft 1in "when my hair is frizzed up", which made him marginally taller than Hart Massey, who steered Oxford in 1939.

Ayer is also the heaviest man in either crew at 15st 6lb, well outside the 17st 5lb record, but the man behind him in the Cambridge crew, Sebastian Dawson-Bowling, has achieved a post-war landmark in his quest for a Blue, dropping from 16st 10lb last September to a svelte 14st 12lb, despite his 6ft 7in frame.

The weigh-in official, BBC commentator Robert Treharne-Jones, managed to live up to the tradition of April 1 by mistakenly announcing Cambridge as the heavier crew. "It seemed the perfect opportunity," he said. "The weigh-in never goes entirely smoothly, at least behind the scenes, so from that point of view nothing was really different."

Action on the water yesterday did little to inform onlookers about the race on Saturday, which will start at 3.30. Cambridge, after a week at Nottingham where they suffered mixed weather but had the previously ailing James Ball back in the stroke seat, had two quiet outings on the Tideway.

Oxford also had two gentle paddles in preparation for a race today against a strong Old Blues crew composed of seven members of the present Olympic squad, including Matthew Pinsent.

TODAY'S OUTINGS: Cambridge 10am and 4pm, Oxford 10am and 4.30pm (with Old Blues)

BOAT RACE WEIGHTS

Oxford University

E J Bellamy (Hampton, Durham University and Keble) bow 13st 3lb (84kg); D R H Clegg (Radley, University College, London and Keble) 13st 12lb (88kg); J F Hammond (Harvard and New College) 13st 5½lb (85kg); D R West (Dulwich, King's College, London and St Catherine's) 13st 3lb (84kg); B Mann (Yale and Keble) 15st ½lb (95.5kg); J W Howick (Dartmouth, Concordia and Keble) 13st 4lb (84.5kg); P A Berger (Univ of Pennsylvania and University), 14st 13½lb (95kg); A R A Frost (Eton and Oriel) stroke 14st 2½lb (90kg); T B Kristol (Harvard and Oriel) 7st 7½lb (48kg) Crew average 13st 12¾lb (88.3kg)

Cambridge University

J R Elliott (Winchester Coll and Trinity) 13st 7½lb (86kg), M P C Barnett (Harrogate GS and Queens') 13st 8½lb (86.5kg); N J Burfitt (Wimbledon Coll, Imperial and St George's MS, and Emmanuel) 13st 8½lb (86.5kg) S J Dawson-Bowling (King's, Canterbury and Magdalene) 14st 12lb (94.5kg); E Ayer (Harvard and St Edmund's) 15st 6lb (98kg); H G C Clarke (Taunton and Trinity Hall) 13st 1lb (83kg); R M Waller (Emanuel and Downing) 13st 1lb (83kg); J F E Ball (King's, Chester and Robinson) stroke 13st 3lb (84kg); K Whyman (King's, Chester and Peterhouse) 8st ½lb (51kg). Crew average 13st 11¾lb (87.7kg).

High prices held responsible for unsold tickets at Cup semi-finals

FA considers more cheap seats

By Peter Ball

THE almost unprecedented sight of rows of empty seats at the FA Cup semi-finals on Sunday has forced the Football Association to review its ticketing structure. Only Chelsea, of the four semi-finalists, sold out their allocation as supporters balked at the high prices.

At Old Trafford, with few £14 seats available, there were more than 10,000 empty places as Liverpool and Aston Villa supporters refused to pay £30 and £38. United also returned tickets for their semi-final at Villa Park. By contrast, the Scottish Cup semi-final between Celtic and Rangers at Hampden Park this Sunday is a sell-out. Tickets are priced at £13 and £14.

"We have no plans to review our prices. However, our ticket structure may need to be addressed," Steve Double, the FA press officer, said yesterday. "It seems we have too many seats in the top band and not enough cheap seats. Obviously, the demand for tickets was not there at Old Trafford and that was disappointing and unfortunate.

"I can understand Villa fans staying away as they had been at Wembley the week before. Liverpool fans obviously didn't want to pay those prices, although the seats at Old Trafford afford good views."

The FA, however, has had no qualms, probably rightly, about charging up to £115 to see the Cup Final. Prices for the rematch between the 1977 finalists are £17, £25, £30, £35, £40, £45 and £60 in the open seats, with the Olympic Gallery tickets costing £100 and £115.

The clubs will each get 25,500 tickets, and in both cases demand is likely to outstrip supply. "It is a good spread of prices to suit all fans," Double said. "We don't expect any empty seats at this game."

Empty seats were not the only problem at Villa Park. With the European championship little more than two months away, the bare pitch also gave rise for concern.

"I can't see it being ready unless they turf it," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said yesterday. "It depends on the weather. If they get a hot May, it might be all right, but if they are seeding it, I couldn't see it being ready."

The club is unconcerned, however. Villa's last home game is on April 27 and the first European championship match at the ground is on June 10, giving them more than six weeks to repair the damage. "The groundsman is starting seeding this week," Steven Stride, the Villa secretary, said yesterday. "It will certainly have recovered by the first match of the championship."

Manchester United will have to pursue the FA Carling Premiership title without their first-choice central defenders, at least until after Easter. Steve Bruce, who joined Gary Pallister on the injured list before the semi-final, is expected to be out with a pulled hamstring for two weeks.

"His hamstring had been tight all week," Ferguson said. "He was ready to try it on Saturday morning. He did, but it was hopeless — I think he 'pinged' it a little. He might have a wee chance for the game at Southampton on April 13, but it's a worry with Pallister already out."

Pallister's back injury is causing United further concern. There were suggestions yesterday that he hoped to be back in time for the Cup Final. "I hope he is available before that," Ferguson said, "but it is a strange one. He is doing remedial work in the gym and should be much closer in a couple of weeks, but we've got to be patient."

Bruce, left, and Pallister, both of whom are injured

Gareth Southgate is likely to miss the rest of the season after damaging knee ligaments in the Old Trafford game. The injury rules the Aston Villa defender out of England's match against Croatia on April 24 and casts doubt over his participation in the European championship.

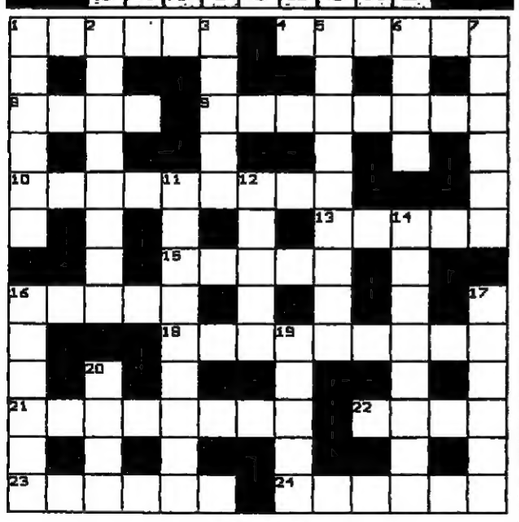
Darren Anderton, the England and Tottenham Hotspur midfield player, faces another vital stage in his rehabilitation when he plays against West Ham United reserves at Upton Park tonight. If he comes through unscathed, he could be recalled to the first-team squad for the FA Carling Premiership match at Nottingham Forest on Saturday.

Anderton, 24, has not played since September, when he underwent groin surgery. He has had to endure several setbacks during a lengthy recovery period but played in a reserve-team game against Brighton last week. He was replaced at half-time as a precaution.

"Darren has still got a few aches and pains but that's understandable," Tony Lenaghan, the Tottenham physiotherapist, said yesterday. "His muscles are getting used to all the change and that takes time."

United shares sale, page 25

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 745

ACROSS
1 Plaster of Paris basis (6)
4 Haunt mind (6)
8 Waterless (4)
9 Tactful person; member of corps (8)
10 Insulting scorn (9)
13 Side of cut gem (5)
15 Winged spirit; old coin (5)
16 Assume; mount (show) (3,2)
18 A breaking in (9)
21 Mild mental illness (8)
22 Look displeased, sulky (4)
23 Fair, sincere (6)
24 Reed roof (6)

DOWN
1 Swift look (6)
2 Arousing sharp sadness (8)
3 Computer/network connector (5)
5 Inelegant dive (9)
6 "The moan of doves in immemorial —" *(Tennyson)* (4)
7 Display; begin (journey) (3,3)
11 With one voice (9)
12 Gloucester's evil son *(Lear)* (5)
14 Stop that!; clip something (from paper) (3,2,3)
16 Base for statue (6)
17 Grab hastily (6)
19 Overturn; hurt (5)
20 Change direction (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 744
ACROSS: 1 Pelican 5 Comic 8 Enter 9 Lump sum 10 Merry-go-round 12 Lacuna 14 Lawyer 17 Childe Roland 21 Asocial 22 Shako 23 Mused 24 Midweek
DOWN: 1 Preamble 2 Later 3 Carry-on 4 Nelson 5 Cameo 6 Masonry 7 Camp 11 Gridlock 13 Cahoots 15 Aroused 16 Bedlam 18 Laird 19 Apace 20 Palm

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SRU bans lock for 19 months

DAVID McKENDRICK, the Biggar lock, has received a 19-month suspension from the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU) for his part in disturbances that marred his side's 14-6 Tennents Cup victory over Ayr in February.

McKendrick was sent off, along with Kenny Nicol, of Ayr, by Charles Muir, the international panel referee. McKendrick had been involved in an off-the-ball incident earlier in the match which led to Jim Lymburn, the Ayr captain, being taken to hospital with a serious head injury.

That incident was not witnessed by the referee, but the SRU's disciplinary panel yesterday suspended McKendrick until October 18, 1997.

The ban covers 60 playing weeks and is one of the most severe meted out by the SRU, which last season banned Bill Blyth, the Murrayfield prop, for five years for punching in a game against Leith Academicals.

Russ awaits call, page 44

Bruno in running again

By Srikumar Sen, boxing correspondent

FRANK BRUNO may be down but he may not be quite out of the heavyweight picture. He could challenge for the world championship for a fifth time.

It all depends on the next moves of Mike Tyson and Lennox Lewis. If Lewis cannot agree terms with Don King, Tyson's promoter, for his bout with the champion in September, as decreed by the World Boxing Council (WBC), Tyson is likely to give up the title he won from Bruno rather than face Lewis outside King's domain. If that happens, Bruno could have an outside chance of stepping in to challenge for the vacant title. Oliver McCall, of the United States, Henry Akinwande, of Dulwich, and Bruno are the only legitimate contenders the WBC could call on if Tyson did step down.

McCall is the most likely to find favour with the WBC as he has a win over Lewis. But if McCall should not be available, Bruno could be the WBC's choice. As the man who beat McCall and troubled Lewis for six rounds, he is the more solid opponent for Lewis than Akinwande.

Doubts about whether Tyson would meet Lewis were raised when a letter from the WBC to Lewis arrived yesterday assuring him of a title bout in September but not guaranteeing Tyson as the opponent. In fact, three of the five points in the letter to Lewis were concerned with the WBC's options if Tyson decided to give up the title.

Lewis's financial backer, Panos Eliades, said he was handing the WBC letter to solicitors. Eliades is insisting that Tyson should be the opponent for Lewis, as the Superior Court of New Jersey had ruled recently.

"If the WBC wants me to drop our law suit against it, any agreement will have to have Tyson's signature guaranteeing a fight with Lennox."

Lewis: seeking Tyson

Eliades said. "I don't even mind Tyson fighting Bruce Seldon [the World Boxing Association champion] between now and September so long as Tyson signs to fight Lennox. If he runs it will be a sign that he is afraid of Lennox.

"If that happens we could sue for huge damages. The judge said Lennox had an excellent case for damages as he has suffered irreparable harm as a result of the WBC letting Tyson fight Bruno before Lennox."

Even though the boxing historian in Tyson would resist giving up the belt, he could be forced into it because of commercial considerations bigger even than him. It might be necessary for Tyson to safeguard the interests of Showtime, the United States cable television company that has been behind him since he came out of prison.

If Tyson agreed to defend against Lewis the bout would go to purse offers and Lewis's company, Panix Promotions, supported by Home Box Office (the rival television company to Showtime) could well win the right to stage the bout. That would not suit Showtime or the MGM Grand Hotel, who have contracts with Tyson.

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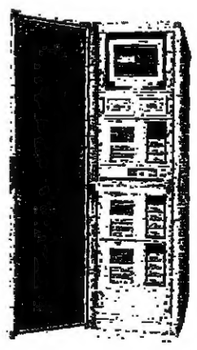

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